

JPRS-UMA-84-012

7 February 1984

USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

CONTENTS

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

Colonel General A. D. Lizichev on Military-Political Issues (SOVETSKIY VOIN, No 20, Oct 83)	1
Party Life: Reports, Elections (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, various dates)	7
Party Work Style Discussed, by A. Kozarez, V. Polezhayev Party Concern for 'Caliber of Life', by A. Ladin Party Neglect of Komsomol Criticized, by A. Yurkin Exemplary Regimental Party Work Cited, by A. Babich	
Party Conference Examines Party's Role in Officer Training (A. Bedzhanyan; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 3 Dec 83)	21
Strengthening Ideological, Political Work (V. Bychenko; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 29 Nov 83)	25

ARMED FORCES

Letters to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Editor, Responses (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, various dates)	30
Service on Kamchatka Praised Editors Respond to Criticism KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Solicits Readers' Comments Location Chosen for Hospital Criticized, by G. Ivanov, A. Ladin Letters Received by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Discussed Serviceman Complains of Airplane Ticket Service, by A. Pinchuk Sergeant Complains About Mess Conditions, by B. Lyapkalo Measures Adopted to Improve Low Morale Clerical Error Corrected	

Responsibilities, Privileges of Conscripts Outlined (P. Sazonov; SOVETSKIY VOIN, No 20, Oct 83)	42
Fashion of Wearing Crosses Criticized (Ye. Sergiyenko; SOVETSKIY VOIN, No 20, Oct 83)	45
Index of Articles in VOYENNNYY VESTNIK, 1983 (VOYENNNYY VESTNIK, No 12, Dec 83)	49
Table of Contents: VOYENNNYY VESTNIK No 12, December 1983	59
Cover-Up of Party Secretary's Drunk Driving Charge Investigated (V. Svetikov; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 4 Dec 83)	61
Officers Identified in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (A. Aleksenko; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 30 Nov 83)	65

NAVAL FORCES

Captain's Superiority Complex Leads To Loss of Command (V. Fedorov, S. Ishchenko; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 3 Dec 83)	66
Subject Index for 1984 Issues (MORSKOY SBORNIK, No 12, Dec 83)	72
Index to Articles Published in 1983 (MORSKOY SBORNIK, No 12, Dec 83)	77
Table of Contents: MORSKOY SBORNIK No 11, November 1983	86
Table of Contents: MORSKOY SBORNIK No 12, December 1983	88

STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES

Colonel Generals Melekhin, Yashin, Vishenkov on Rocket Forces and Artillery Day (Various sources, various dates)	90
Colonel General Melekhin, by A. D. Melekhin	
Colonel General Yashin, Yu. A. Yashin Interview	
Colonel General Vishenkov; by V. Vishenkov	

SPECIAL TROOPS

Table of Contents: TYL I SNABZHFNIYE SOVETSKIKH VOORUZHENNYKH SIL (TYL I SNABZHENIYE SOVETSKIKH VOORUZHENNYKH SIL, No 11, Nov 83)	102
---	-----

MILITARY EDUCATION FACILITIES

Information on Admission to Suvorov Military School (V. Rusanov; KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 2 Dec 83)	104
--	-----

MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

COLONEL GENERAL A. D. LIZICHEV ON MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 20, Oct 83 (signed to press 28 Sep 83)
pp 4-5

[Article: "With Thoughts of the Motherland"]

[Text] Our correspondent met with Member of the Military Council and Chief of the Political Directorate, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Colonel General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, and asked him to tell how the men of the GSFG live, serve, compete, and study military affairs and how they are carrying out the decisions of the June (1983) plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Youths came to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany from different corners of our motherland. It befell their honor and duty to stand vigilant and watchful guard over the countries of the socialist commonwealth--ahead of the border posts.

Frankly speaking, the soldiers miss their homes and near and dear. After all, they are serving under special conditions. But the men of the Group of Forces are linked with the beloved homeland and with their friends and comrades by thousands of invisible but very strong threads. They perceive each success of the Soviet people in the building of communism with pride and joy. The men consider all the achievements of our people as their own because they are contributing their mite of soldierly labor to them.

Residents of cities and villages which were liberated during the years of the Great Patriotic War by units which are now serving in the Group send letters, congratulations, and orders to the men.

Workers from the Urals who supplied weapons for the army during the years 1941-1945 write the soldiers. Letters arrive from Belorussia, the Ukraine, Siberia, Kazakhstan, and other places. Delegations of Uralites are often guests of the men of one of our large units. Once they brought as a gift a sword as a symbol of loyalty to their people and loyalty to the combat deeds and revolutionary traditions of their fathers and grandfathers.

Away from their native country, the men of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany always serve with thoughts of the motherland and with thoughts of the

party which placed us on an important and responsible post. And for us, there is no more honorable mission than the accomplishment of this lofty patriotic and international duty to our people.

Our soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers [praporshchik], officers, and generals are serving with special enthusiasm these days. They are studying the decisions of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee with great interest and are persistently implementing them.

Attuned toward deeds and toward inspired labor--this is the main thing with which the troop collectives and each soldier of the Group are living today. Realization of the decisions of the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee multiplies the spiritual potential of Soviet society, including the spiritual potential of the Soviet Armed Forces. This is especially important in our difficult, stormy time when the international situation has been seriously aggravated through the fault of the United States and its NATO partners and the heat of its intensity at times reaches dangerous limits.

This is why under these most difficult international conditions the plenum's decisions are filled with special meaning for us: the Soviet people and their servicemen should be vigilant to the maximum and ready to rebuff any aggressor.

Today, the Communist Party stresses with special force: the guarantee of our successes is in the organic unity of ideological-political, labor, and moral upbringing and the merging of ideological-indoctrinational work with political, organizational, and economic work. Here, of paramount importance for us is the struggle for a further rise in combat readiness and the strengthening of organization and discipline--of everything which is the chief criterion of the effectiveness of propaganda and indoctrinational work in the Armed Forces.

The Group of Soviet Forces in Germany finds itself under special conditions, which makes its imprint on the nature of service. We thank the party Central Committee and the Soviet government for constant concern for the men on the front line. Our people have been given everything for organized training and life. We have first-class combat equipment and weapons: contemporary tanks, supersonic airplanes, powerful missiles, excellent automatic small arms, electronics, and computers.

We have a good training base--ranges, tank driving grounds, rifle ranges, training fields, and classrooms. Soldiers and officers have excellent living conditions; Officers' Houses, clubs, libraries, coffee shops, and dining halls are at their disposal.

And really, people come to the Group of Forces to serve having good general-educational preparation, politically literate, and physically strong. Their range of interests is unusually broad.

Commanders and staffs, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations are directing the efforts of the personnel toward the accomplishment of plans and programs for combat and political training, the further strengthening of prescribed order, and a rise in vigilance and combat readiness. Socialist competition is playing an ever greater role in the accomplishment of these tasks.

It has become an effective means to mobilize the men for the successful accomplishment of the missions assigned to the Armed Forces by the Communist Party. Our competition, just as in all the Armed Forces, takes place under the slogan, "Raise vigilance, reliably ensure the motherland's security!"

The tankmen of the Guards Tank Red Banner Proskurovsko-Berlin twice order-bearing Regiment imeni G. I. Kotovskiy--the initiator of competition in the Ground Forces--are accomplishing all training missions with lofty enthusiasm and spiritual inspiration. Here the majority of the men drive combat vehicles skillfully, hit targets without missing, and maintain equipment and weapons in an exemplary condition. Many tankmen have become experts of combat and political training, raised their proficiency ratings and become masters of military affairs, and complete interchangeability has been attained in many crews. Here everyone--from the regimental commander to the soldier--studies the entrusted equipment with love and cares for it skillfully. In the regiment, each field lesson is conducted intelligently and in a difficult situation which approximates one of combat. Here exemplary internal order is found which is maintained by all personnel.

In this regiment, competition has become an integral part of the entire process of the training and indoctrination of the tankmen. A spirit of healthy rivalry between the men is maintained in every possible way. In summing up results, the names of those who distinguished themselves are not simply mentioned, but the secret of their successes is also disclosed. In the regiment, those whose results proved to be lower are not passed over in silence. The reasons for their failures are effectively analyzed and advice and recommendations on eliminating shortcomings are given.

The high results which have been attained in combat and political training by Lieutenant Colonel S. Salov, Major I. Ivanov, Captain S. Smirnov, Senior Lieutenant N. Malakhov, and many others cause joy. The number of experts of training, rated specialists, and rated sportsmen has doubled in the units and subunits where these officers serve.

Here just as in other combat collectives there are firm discipline and a high level of organization, and the driving force consists of the communists and Komsomols--the initiators of all glorious deeds. Their personal example is that force which lifts the personnel to inspired labor in the name of strengthening the combat capability of the units and subunits.

It must be confessed that formalism in the organization of competition has not yet been overcome everywhere. There are subunits where they seldom think of the obligations which have been assumed. At times, a spirit of controversy is not felt in the competition of a soldier with a soldier, squad with squad, and platoon with platoon. Sometimes the following also happens: a company or battalion goes out on lessons, and some commanders and political officers are not concerned about helping subordinates to work out specific obligations. And really, in the course of the lessons themselves initiative actions are not noted and the reasons for failures are not disclosed.

Unfortunately, some of our officers who underestimate the role of competition are encountered.

Yes, unquestionably a military person serves in accordance with the regulations. It is not without reason that they say: serve in accordance with the regulations and win honor and fame. But really, does not combat readiness gain from the fact that, let us say, a crew or section prepared its weapon for action several seconds more rapidly than prescribed by the standard? Will it really be worse because the soldiers destroy the target with the first round? Is it really poor if the soldier accomplishes the standards at night as during the day? Yes, there are still many indices in army life where competition is simply as necessary as air!

There is also another aspect--moral. Competition generates collectivism and trains people to approach one or another phenomenon from social, state positions. I would say that it makes a person purer and more noble and sows in him the good seeds of communist morality and morals.

Some say: why, they say, compete for exemplary cleanliness and order in the barracks, cantonments, and classrooms? Everything, they say, is noted in the regulations. But these comrades should understand that a lofty style becomes the soldier's second nature. He will then carry this style to the most remote corners of our country and there will introduce and propagate it. For it was known to all ages ago that the army is the greatest school for the political, military, cultural, and aesthetic indoctrination of millions and millions of young people.

Commanders and political organs are living with concern for the high combat readiness of the troops. Newer and newer problems of combat improvement are being solved at sessions of the Military Council, at service conferences, and at sessions of party activists and meetings. Important organizational work is being conducted locally. Commanders and party and Komsomol organizations spare no strength so that the quality of combat training is raised from day to day, field training improves, and combat readiness increases.

Combat readiness! This concept acquires visible outlines in the consciousness of the serviceman as early as on the first lessons when commanders and political officers tell him that today the honorable right to join the ranks of the defenders of the socialist fatherland has been entrusted to the young soldier of the 1980's. Combat readiness is a special condition of the soldier, of his mind and heart. The signal for assembly and the alarm signal should not catch him unawares. The serviceman lives each day and each hour with the concern and responsibility for the fate of the beloved motherland and its future and lives in constant readiness to give a rebuff to dark forces if they unleash aggression against the Country of Soviets and the countries of the socialist commonwealth.

Combat readiness.... This is always vigilance and self-collection. Recall the words of our leader, V. I. Lenin: "...the one who forgets about the danger which constantly threatens us and which will not cease as long as imperialism exists,--the one who forget about this will forget about our labor republic."

We are now standing guard over the peace shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal countries and their armed defenders. The correlation of forces has changed in favor of world socialism. But as formerly, it is not easy for us to proceed toward our cherished goal--toward a communist society. Reactionary circles of

the imperialist powers, and first of all of the United States of America, are doing everything to halt our forward movement. There can be no doubt that imperialism would have ignited the fire of a third world war long ago if the high combat capability of the countries of the socialist commonwealth had not been ensured and if in the path of the instigators of war had not stood the Soviet Armed Forces and the forces of our allies whose law was, is, and will be combat readiness of the highest order.

Member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and Minister of Defense of the USSR, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, stresses that combat readiness is the alloying of the technical equipping of the troops, their military training, moral-political, psychological, and physical tempering, organization, and readiness of each Soviet serviceman for an exploit in the name of accomplishing his military duty to the motherland.

The soldier only becomes a soldier when he masters completely the discipline of battle and combat duty and when he understands with his mind, heart, and his entire being that he is like a cartridge in a clip. With contemporary crew-served weapons any deviation from the standard or imprecise execution of a command can stop or delay a missile at launch and place a combat vehicle or the entire subunit under an enemy strike.

Here, outside our country, we need the highest combat readiness and strongest discipline even more because we are standing face to face with a very perfidious and powerful grouping of the aggressive North Atlantic Bloc. The United States of America and its NATO partners are intensifying the arms race and igniting hot spots of war at various points of the world. The enemies are conducting unbridled anti-Soviet propaganda by radio and television.

Against all this we have the sharpest and strongest weapon--Marxism-Leninism. Our men from soldier to general are armed with this weapon; it operates faultlessly, precisely, and with dead certainty. So that no provocations and no revengist respites will upset our balance. And if the party and the government so order, we will give the most brutal rebuff to any aggressor.

The men of the Group understand well that they are serving on the territory of a friendly fraternal state--the German Democratic Republic. They are observing strictly the laws of the GDR and the traditions and customs of the local population, and they are strengthening international ties. They often meet with German youth and the men of the National People's Army. Such meetings enrich with combat experience and help to get to know one another. The Soviet servicemen and the men of the National People's Army are loyal friends and true brothers.

Not so long ago the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the GDR State Council, Comrade E. Honecker, visited one of the Group's units.

Work on strengthening combat collaboration is acquiring urgent significance for commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations. As is known, its basis is the common character of the tasks in protecting the peaceful, creative labor of their peoples and peace and security on the western borders of the countries of the socialist commonwealth.

We remember well and approve with all our hearts the firm declarations of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yu. V. Andropov: "Those who encroached upon the integrity of our state, on its independence, and on our system found themselves on the trash pile of history. It should be time for everyone to whom this pertains to understand that we are able to ensure the security of our country and the security of our friends and allies under any conditions."

Work on strengthening combat collaboration is being conducted especially actively during the period of the preparation and conduct of joint exercises. They have become a remarkable school for the indoctrination of the men of the fraternal armies in a spirit of socialist internationalism.

Service in the army, and especially abroad, requires of a person great tension and lofty combat and moral qualities: here the powder should constantly be kept dry. And the men of the Group understand the entire completeness of the responsibility which has been placed on them and are proud that the honor fell on them to represent our people and its army abroad.

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY LIFE: REPORTS, ELECTIONS

Party Work Style Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Col A. Kozarez and Col V. Polezhayev: "The Work Style"]

[Text] Unit "X" of the Strategic Rocket Forces has earned the excellent unit title for the seventh time in a row. Based on the results of the past training year, 66 percent of the unit's crews and subunits are excellent ones, 83 percent of the specialists have higher ratings and almost every second officer is a master. The party organization made a substantial contribution to the achievement of these results.

The communists had something to brag about at the report-and-election party meeting. Major G. Murav'yev, secretary of the party organization, did not begin his report by listing the impressive indices, however. He said that what had been achieved was not the limit.

The party bureau's work style could actually be assessed from this atmosphere created for the meeting. And it was truly characterized by demandingness throughout the report period. Great demandingness on the entire front was the first principle, if I may, underlying the party bureau's work style.

The evening before we had studied material from the previous report-and-election meeting and spoken with many of the communists. It was an interesting thing, and this was mentioned more than once in the discussion, that all the members of the combat crews were communists. There are those among them who have come to a standstill in their professional growth. To bring them up in their knowledge and skills--this is one of the reserves for improving combat readiness. There were also other opinions, to be sure. Some said that these were only isolated cases and that even if they were brought up to standard, the improvement in the overall results would be insignificant....

Later, following the meeting, the members of the newly elected bureau studied all the speeches and arrived at the unanimous conclusion: There should be no such thing as trifles in the campaign for combat readiness. Many "little kopecks" add up to a "whole ruble," as Murav'yev expressed it.

And so, the second work style principle--to value any possibility for improving the work--was defined.

They arrived at yet another principle as they discussed their future work--to take an overall approach to the resolution of each problem and not to encourage "dashing cavalry charges": A thoroughly conceived system of interrelated measures is needed in each situation.

Let us now discuss the following. This approach was graphically manifested, when they decided to make personal studies of the communists' capabilities. They determined who could and who absolutely must must up a notch in their skills. The bureau members then had thoroughgoing talks with each communist, discussed his personal commitments in the competition and helped him to compile a plan for fulfilling the commitments according to a schedule. They set a date for each of the communists to submit a report at a party bureau meeting. They also gave some thought to the kind of assistance they could obtain from the unit methods council. Nor did they forget about the efficacious factor (and this applied to all of them) of publicity. They arranged for all the officers to be informed each day of the previous day's achievements. In short, they activated all of the "little wheels" and "little screws."

Six people made reports at the bureau during the report period. This would not seem to be very many. There was no need for any more, however. Something else was more important. Each of the six, including officers L. Grankin, Ye. Yekhnovetskiy and A. Kaverin, totally justified the hopes placed upon them. This meant that the crews of which they were members had also taken a step forward, and combat readiness had improved for the entire unit.

"All of our subunits are in equal positions," officer N. Lobanov stated at the report-and-election party meeting. "Why are the achievements not identical? There is only one reason for this: The communists in these collectives take different approaches to the work. In some collectives they thoroughly understand that the job is organized by the individual, while this is not always remembered in other collectives."

Just what exactly are we talking about?

In the subunit in which the party organization is headed by Senior Lieutenant A. Semenov, for example, they know how to carry out any task assigned by the commander for performing indoctrinational work with the personnel. They consider it to be self-evident that a good attitude needs to be created in the collective toward the work coming up. And demandingness in the subunit is constant, firm, even and personal. In an adjacent subunit, however, all of this is sometimes replaced, now with sharp, impersonal criticism, now with special arrangements. Naturally, this does not have the best possible effect upon the attitude of the personnel.

Members of the bureau visited this subunit and made a study to determine how well the party organization members understood the fact that they mainly influence the work through their indoctrinational effect upon the men. They pointed out to Captain S. Prikhod'ko, party organization secretary, the problems to which he

should devote special attention. Advice was also given for instilling in the fightingmen pride in their combat collective and a sense of comradeship and for stepping up the work of the Komsomol organization. They also discussed the need to correct the methods used by some comrades for directing the collectives, so that they do not rely exclusively upon administrative measures. The party bureau members went even further and stated that they needed to use such moral incentives as rewards, trust....

Some very important, characteristic features of the party bureau's work style stand out in everything we have said. These include respect and consideration for the individual and reliance upon his spiritual reciprocity. They include focused work and earnest assistance right in the lower collectives.

We have not strayed from the subject by speaking first of the work style and principles and now mentioning the features of that style. "The fact is that the party bureau has elevated the work style features to the level of a principle," we were told by one of those with whom we spoke in the unit. And we understood that only those methods which impart principled purposiveness can truly penetrate into all of the party organ's work. Principles which have been comprehended, studied and conscientiously adopted for use and which are firmly and consistently applied in the work are essential. Unfortunately, we still see party organs, and not so rarely, which lack this kind of objective concern for their own work style. And the work loses a great deal as a result.

Thinking over materials and decisions coming out of the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Major Murav'yev and his comrades in the bureau saw their own failings and defined new principles of style, that is just what we shall call them, for their own work.

"We have turned to the matter of shaping up the young officers several times," Major A. Gusel'nikov stated at the report-and-election meeting, "and each time we have adopted a new decision. Why has this happened? We are not always able to set up rigid control over the fulfillment of our decisions and do not always see the long-range picture."

He said "we" because he himself is a member of the party bureau.

Senior Lieutenant Ye. Noskov expressed the same thought:

"All of us need to face up to the problem of the end result. Party work can and must be thought out and planned in a long-range context, and the measures outlined must be implemented in stages, taking into account those 'immediate' and 'distant' objectives which we set for ourselves."

Senior Lieutenant Yu. Doronin and others could see from the speeches by these communists that this kind of long-range vision, this kind of perspective for the work are becoming especially important now, since the June plenum of our party's Central Committee set forth the long-range program for improving ideological and mass political work. This is a fact. Each party organization must not simply live for the present but must have a clear idea of what needs to be done today, tomorrow and the day after. With respect to improving the performance, let us

say, of the agitation and propaganda group and the instructors for the political study groups, and establishing effective forms of indoctrination to be used in the soldiers' auditorium, precisely among the youth; with respect to intensifying counter-propaganda and the role of visual agitation; with respect to infusing fresh spirit into the work of the Komsomol organizations, the club, the women's council, and so forth. These are realistic ways of enhancing effectiveness in the ideological tempering of the fightingmen, in the strengthening of discipline and combat readiness.

Do not form the opinion that the bureau was not criticized at the report-and-election party meeting. There was criticism, serious and constructive. The same kind of criticism was also leveled at certain communists. The constructiveness of the criticism--this is also a very important feature, after all, ("and a principle!" they would say in the unit) of the work style.

Style does not exist in and of itself. People are the agents of style. The more the communists self-critically analyze their own ability to perform and communicate with others and consciously engage in self-indoctrination and the development of the needed work qualities in themselves, the more militant will be the party organization. Many communists in the unit, who have a sense of the new, are persistently perfecting their ability to work with people. Officers A. Kaverin, N. Bragin, A. Usel'nikov, G. Murav'yev.... Where do they get their power of attraction? First and foremost, from their profound communist conviction, purposiveness, simplicity and accessibility, from their acutely developed sense of responsibility. That is, from everything which V.I. Lenin referred to as the mark of the Bolshevik. And when you think about the fact that these are the communists who determine the moral climate in the unit and the work style of the party organization, you have to conclude that this collective is capable of achieving even higher goals.

Party Concern for 'Caliber of Life'

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Maj A. Ladin: "Decide and Achieve"]

[Text] The report-and-election party meeting was over in motorized rifle regiment "X." And Major V. Savitskiy was re-elected secretary of the party committee. This honor was given to the communist for his good moral qualities, his principle, initiative and creative activeness and for his ability to organize the party work. At the meeting the communists stated that the June 1983 Plenum of our party's Central Committee stressed the exceptional importance of seeing to it that our words and our deeds never diverge, that the form never takes the place of the essence of a job. The party committee headed by Major Savitskiy demonstrates firmness and persistence as it implements the party's directions and its own decisions. The speakers recalled various facts confirming this. We shall discuss just one of them in detail.

Last year the work in the messhall was on everybody's tongue, as they say. Now the boiler in the kitchen would break down, now the steam supply would be disrupted, now supplies would be late in arriving. This naturally affected the fulfillment of the daily schedule and the morale of the men. Major Savitskiy, who witnessed this disorder himself, listened to complaints more than once. The situation was also discussed at the report-and-election party meeting. In the beginning the young secretary took the attitude that the matter of establishing order in the messhall was the concern of Major A. Timofeyev, deputy regimental commander for rear services.

Life forced him to take a new look at many things, however. He gradually acquired a profound understanding of the fact that there is nothing which does not concern the party organization.

At one of the party committee sessions Savitskiy recalled that the communists in charge of the messhall operation had been criticized at the report-and-election meeting.

Someone made the following comment:

"Timofeyev is to blame for everything. He has neglected this area of the work. It is time to hold him strictly accountable."

He should be held accountable, that goes without saying, the secretary answered, but we should probably not rush with the strictness part. We need to sort it all out.

The first thing the party committee members did was to study the matter at the site. Savitskiy went several times to the premises where the food was being prepared for the personnel, first with one and then another party activist. He checked to see what the messhall chief was doing during his duty hours, how he was handling his duties. It was clear that he was not putting his heart and soul into the job. It was long since time to replace or repair the messhall equipment, but he had no desire to complicate his own life with extra concerns. Strict records were not kept on the food supplies. Nothing was being done to make the service premises or the messhall itself pleasant. In addition to everything else, it was obvious that basic repairs and partial reconstruction had to be carried out on the messhall. This would require temporarily preparing the food in field kitchens. There would be inconveniences, of course, and it was not the right time. Things should not remain as they were, however....

Savitskiy shared his thoughts with the regimental commander. The commander seemed to listen without any special enthusiasm.

"That is all very well," he commented. "But we don't have time for the messhall right now. There are far more important problems, and they cannot be put off...."

"That is true," the secretary said, nodding his head. "But there is an important factor beyond all of this, you will agree. It is a political aspect, I would say...."

The commander raised his brows. He hesitated for a moment, pensive. He drummed his fingers on the desk.

"What you say is true. On the other hand, you know that we have an inspection just around the corner, so to speak. I would like to have everything in good order. You know yourself that field kitchens and makeshift arrangements are not a good thing for the commission to see...."

Lieutenant Colonel I. Chukavin, deputy commander for political affairs, was present at the discussion. He understood the commander and his concern. At the same time, he totally agreed with the party committee secretary. This matter could not be put off. And he said just that.

"Well," the commander said, pacing the office pensively, "since the problem is upon us, let us discuss it again in the party committee."

The discussion took place. In such cases, naturally, it is important to get a sense of the overall feeling about the matter. Timofeyev also heard complaints. The men told him that the caliber of the work in the messhall had to be improved, that the work to establish thrift and control there had to be stepped up. They did not expect Timofeyev to agree with the proposal that the repair work be done. This time, however, he was even glad: "I'm tired of hearing complaints. And the party committee secretary is right when he says that we need to see more than just the management side of the picture."

"Then let's get to work," the commander said in summary. "I have a feeling that we are in for some knocks, though."

And they did get their "knocks." An officer came from higher headquarters to monitor preparations for the spring inspection. He took a look at the messhall, where the repair work was well underway. That set him off: "What? Just when the commission is about to arrive? You picked a good time to make a mess and ruin the appearance of the place. You should have done a little painting and touched things up a bit, and that would have been it...."

The work in the messhall was in full swing by the beginning of the spring inspection. The district commander visited the unit just at that time. He inspected the post and checked on the condition of the barracks. Nor did he omit the messhall. At the entrance to the messhall Major A. Timofeyev, slightly worried, informed the commander about how they had decided to fix up the messhall. They were replacing the equipment. At the suggestion of men in the regiment who were handy at such things, they were facing the walls with plaster tiles, which they were making themselves. The commander smiled and said:

"You have demonstrated good initiative. I wish you well...."

The messhall was opened 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Bright, clean, with an attractive interior finish which pleased the eye, with brand-new kettles in the cooking section, their nickel plate gleaming--this was the messhall now. The party committee only had to "close the matter," and Major Savitskiy only needed to write "Completed" in the log for action on criticism.

The secretary was in no hurry to do this, however. He was troubled by the fact that procedures in the messhall had not changed. The KP detail continued to work in the sections without special clothing. During breakfast, lunch or dinner, one could see how careless the men were with the bread, with the dishes. Some men would come straight from the combat vehicle pool and sit down at a table with greasy hands.

Savitskiy brought up the matter of the messhall once again with the party committee members. Some of them could not conceal their surprise. How long could they discuss this matter? Let the rear service deal with the problem....

Major Savitskiy seemed to be annoyed, but he controlled himself. He spoke calmly and deliberately about how we are not always able to detect the connection between the organization of the training, the service, even the living conditions, and the effect of these matters upon the moods and the morale of the men. The indoctrinational role of military service means that we not only temper the soldiers ideologically, teach them discipline and comradeship, and so forth, but also develop in them a sense of thriftiness, respect for the people's property, a high level of conduct and mutual relations. Is this not political work, work for the party?

You have asked how long we can deal with the matter of the messhall. You would seem to have a point: Let the management people handle the messhall. It is in these facets of regimental life, however, that the party organ's ability to take precisely the party approach to everything is tested. Yes, the repair of the messhall is the job of the management people. It was the party committee's job not only to demonstrate to them that we could not think just about whether or not it was advantageous to begin the repair work at that time, about whether we could put off the work for another year, but also to think primarily about the men, about the fact that when the food is prepared well this indicates concern for the soldiers, understanding of the nature of their difficult work, respect for them. It is equally true that the technological process for preparing the food is the concern of the management people. How they fulfill their duties is the party's concern, however. And it is the party's concern to see that the messhall is not simply a "place for taking meals," where everything is done in a hurry, where there is noise and confusion, where people sit at the tables in their special clothing, where fallen spoons and little figures molded out of bread lie around on the floor. No, it is a classroom for teaching culture, discipline, indoctrination, thrift, refinement, if you like.

I am describing the atmosphere of that emotional discussion, although perhaps not always literally. You know yourself that emotions cannot be included in the minutes of a meeting. This is the meaning of the discussion, however, which remained in the minds of those present. They all became involved in the discussion. Lieutenant Colonel I. Chukavin, for example, suggested that the subunit Komsomol organizations be "put to work" on these matters.

The regimental commander requested to speak. "I would also like to say that we need to develop in our officers the ability to talk with the men simply and sincerely, and in any suitable situation. There is more reciprocal attention and confidentiality in a relaxed, unofficial, so to speak, atmosphere. How the range

of our influence would be enlarged if we all knew how to talk with them in this manner. About what we have been discussing, the caliber of their personal lives, for example...."

In short, this also gave new impetus to the organizational and indoctrinational work. It is producing results as well.

I have to admit that I deliberately selected what would appear to be a "non-combat" matter out of the many examples which could have been used to illustrate the efficiency and earnestness of the secretary and the party committee. You might think: Why the messhall? It would have been different had you talked about how they worked purposively and with party methods to help increase the number of rated specialists, to improve the materials and equipment base, to unite the collective. I still chose this example, a "non-combat" one, though. I chose it because it graphically shows what it means to find the political meaning in each issue, to see the object of party concern, to see the factors which directly affect the combat training.

Party Neglect of Komsomol Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Yurkin: "In General, We Are Directing"]

[Text] The meeting had not yet begun, and Major V. Rybin, secretary of the tank regiment's party committee, found the time to answer a few questions for me. One of them had to do with party supervision of the Komsomol organization, the people's controllers and the women's council.

"In general, we are supervising them....," Valentin Nikolayevich answered. "That is the way it has to be. And we shall tell in the report...."

This subject was barely mentioned in the report, however. Only a few general statements were made about the Komsomol. Senior Lieutenant A. Kozhayev, secretary of the Komsomol organization, then took the speaker's stand. He also tried to give an analysis of how the party committee supervises the Komsomol organization.

Were there actually no creative problems in this area, then?

Major F. Dolinskiy addressed the meeting. He talked about how the communists regard the mastery of the equipment and weapons and about the indoctrinational work they perform with the fightingmen. He reproached the Komsomol committee for the fact that it does not find the opportunity to participate in the effort to make the monthly inspections of the combat equipment highly effective. There was a problem, then.

And there was another problem. The thought was expressed in passing (and just in passing!) in the accountability report that the young officers needed more help with their professional development. And that was all. I thought to myself: There is going to have to be some active intervention by the Komsomol committee. After all, it is the Komsomol committee's vital job, its direct duty, to

work with the young officers, most of whom are Komsomol members or communists working in the Komsomol. The party committee should therefore direct its efforts. What had been done? What were the party committee's failings? What needed to be done? There were no answers to these questions. Even worse, the questions were simply not asked, neither in the report-and-election meeting nor in the party committee's daily work.

They were real, however! But they were not noticed. One did not have to go far for proof. That same day, prior to the report-and-election party meeting, classes were held as part of the commander's training program. Before lunch the platoon commanders were supposed to cover one of the tactical subjects in the field. This was listed in the class schedule. In fact, however, the platoon commanders--those of the 2nd battalion headed by Lieutenant Colonel B. Vyazov, for example--sat in a classroom in the training building and spent the time as they saw fit. Many of the men were not even present. For the sake of appearance one of the soldiers was given the assignment of plotting the situation on a map. In short, it was a lesson conducted for a "checkmark" in the record.

This is not an isolated case. This attitude toward the professional growth of the young officers and the inaction of some of them trouble the regimental commander and his deputy for political affairs. They take vigorous steps along their own line of authority, but the party committee and the Komsomol organization could also do a great deal. They are not, though. Why not?

The answer is not to be found on the surface of things. It is somewhere, if you will, in the deeply rooted psychology, beneath the thick layers of habit and inertia.

I will frankly say that the practical and vital links of the party and Komsomol organizations are frequently understood in a narrow, bureaucratic way, sometimes no more than formally. Recommending certain young communists to work in the subunit Komsomol organizations and the Komsomol committee, attending sessions of the Komsomol organs and Komsomol meetings more or less regularly, conducting scheduled seminars with the youth aktiv--sometimes even these mandatory measures and activities (which can actually be checked) are carried out half-heartedly, frequently for the "checkmark." And sometimes even the "checkmark" can not be entered in the sense of indicating: "I was there." or "I attended." Also here in the regiment far from all of the officers-and-communists take part in the Komsomol meetings of the subunits which they command. Not all of them are familiar with the decisions and the concerns of the Komsomol bureaus. This, incidentally, is yet another problem.

This is far from the whole matter, however. It goes even deeper. Today, when the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee has set forth large-scale tasks for perfecting the ideological and the mass political work, the responsibility of party organizations for the renewal and updating of the forms and the substance of all the work of the Komsomol collectives has increased immeasurably. The plenum pointed out to the communists the fact that not all of the Komsomol organizations are on top of the tasks facing them, that they sometimes fail to become involved in pressing problems which truly concern the youth, that they are frequently hampered by excessive organization, fuss and showiness, that they are unable to get down to the serious matters in the everyday life, to finish what

they have begun. And so, there are precisely defined criteria for the Komsomol work understood in the modern sense, and we have some obvious reference points showing us where and how to help improve it.

This would seem to make it incumbent upon us to take a close look and determine the degree to which these deficiencies exist in the regimental Komsomol members, determine whether they always have what Lenin referred to as "their own initiative, their own enterprise," determine whether some of the indoctrinational measures performed by the Komsomol committee and the Komsomol bureau have not stagnated in their form and substance. Does the moral indoctrination of the Komsomol members involve the burning issues of the day? Is it full of poignancy and feeling? Is the Komsomol performing as seriously and efficiently as it should? Is it taking clearly defined "actions" aimed at the strengthening of military discipline, the unification of the collection, the mastery of the weapons and combat equipment, the enhancement of combat readiness? And the primary and most important thing--how well does the party committee itself understand today's demands for the performance of Komsomol organizations, and how has it helped the Komsomol aktiv to understand them and improve its work? I feel that this question simply has to be on the agenda of the report-and-election party meeting. After all, life today demands that we study the way things are and the way they should be with complete thoroughness, along the entire front, as they say. Who, if not the party committee, is going to give the impetus and direction? Who is going to suggest effective forms of specific work for the Komsomol organization in the spirit of the party's contemporary demands?

What I learned when I became acquainted with the Komsomol work and the party's supervision of the work in the regiment apparently reminded me of another incident, which had occurred not so long before that but which contrasted with the present situation. I attended a party meeting in the excellent anti-aircraft missile battalion commanded at that time by Major B. Prokopenko. I was initially very surprised to see that the agenda, which covered the tasks of the communists with respect to increasing party influence upon the combat readiness, also frequently dealt with the Komsomol organization and its problems. I subsequently understood that the personnel in this battalion do not deal with any single matter pertaining to life or the service without the Komsomol members' participation in its resolution. And they regard the Komsomol members not simply as mechanical agents. They expect initiative and lively, enthusiastic participation from them. They expect Komsomol members to ask for or define "their own" area of responsibility in the common work. "It is very important," Prokopenko said, "to make 'your own' statements and suggestions, for which you will be responsible."

The youth there were truly active in the work. And the spark came from Prokopenko. He would "throw out" an idea at a meeting of the Komsomol committee or point out to the Komsomol group organizer an area for... initiative, and this would set off a chain reaction of suggestions. An unannounced inspection of the equipment, Komsomol sponsorship of those who had committed themselves to master a related specialty, talks in the groups on works of V.I. Lenin selected for independent study, discussions of comradeship, real and phony.... All of this stimulated the youth. It was all absorbing and interesting. Naturally, it was also extraordinarily beneficial and contributed to the political and military indoctrination, to the accomplishment of the combat training tasks. At Komsomol

committee meetings in the battalion they racked their brains for ways to make the next activity meaningful and interesting for the youth. And the stimulus, the enthusiasm, came from Prokopenko and other communists.

Major V. Prokopenko has been promoted and the Komsomol members with whom he worked have completed their service, but the memory remains. There is an excellent materials base functioning, for example, the creation of which was a Komsomol frontline of shock work. There is a fine club for the young officers. It was built by the Komsomol as a shock-labor project. An athletic ground was also built at the initiative of the Komsomol members. I could not list all of the things they have done!

The tank regiment's Komsomol organization can not yet boast of such purposiveness, concrete action, inventiveness or originality. Nor can the party committee boast of this kind of vital, all-around, thoroughgoing supervision of the regimental Komsomol. In short, there are things to think about and to work on in the new report period.

Nor did the work of the patrols receive any attention at the meeting. Major D. Rud', chairman of the people's control group, did mention in his talk the number of posts and the number of unannounced inspections which had been made, but he admitted that they had received no effective reactions to the conclusions arrived at by the controllers. Nothing at all was said about the party committee helping the women's council, although there is such a council and its membership includes many dozens of wives of servicemen. Nothing was said about this, even though it would seem to be apparent that the female combat friends of the officers and warrant officers could contribute a great deal with respect to improving living conditions and leisure-time activities and uniting the collective, that this is also an important area of the party organization's work.

Exemplary Regimental Party Work Cited

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col A. Babich: "Sensitivity for the Problem"]

[Text] I was especially interested in the report-and-election party meeting in the anti-aircraft missile regiment to which I was en route. As an officer with the superior political organ I was well acquainted with the work and the people in the unit. The missilemen had achieved success in many areas in the past training year. The unit had once again won the title of an excellent regiment.

The accountability report presented by Major V. Sadonov, secretary of the party committee, was a serious one, I would even say a searching report. One sensed concern for the kind of mood which would be set for the new members of the party committee and concern about how best to reveal the key problems of the future work.

It would be a good thing, I thought, to give them the party committee's ability to spot a lagging area and to focus their efforts on it.

This ability had been demonstrated more than once. And what is extremely important is the fact that the impetus for making a thorough effort to correct deficiencies was most frequently provided by reports from the communists in the subunits. This is a very valuable thing. After all, who knows the life of the subunits, knows everything which is disturbing the military collectives, better than the people who are directly involved in the training and indoctrination of the men?

Major D. Larionov, a subunit commander, once dropped in on Sadonov, or more precisely, he was passing by and dropped in to visit the party committee. The training year was just getting well under way. They talked about this and that, of course.

"Doesn't it seem to be a matter of attitude"?

"You guessed it, Vladimir Georgiyevich," Larionov answered. "I just attended a drill by one of the crews. They are not meeting the norms at all."

"Maybe the slack has developed because of the new men," the party committee secretary suggested.

"Not likely," Larionov disagreed. "In my opinion, the cause lies elsewhere."

And he began to explain his thoughts in detail. It was his opinion that Captain A. Abrosimov, commander of the crew, had lowered his demandingness with respect to the organization of the training and his subordinates. The reasoning was probably the following. The year had only begun, and there were still many months ahead in which to achieve the required level of perfection in the combat skills. This is perhaps why Larionov had not noticed the proper intensity in the exercise, had seen no concern for making each minute of training time beneficial.

"However," he completed his thought, "it is not just a matter of this crew, of the attitude of Abrosimov alone. I'm worried that this situation might exist in the other subunits as well."

At the order of the regimental commander, to whom the party committee secretary revealed his concern, a comprehensive inspection was scheduled in a number of subunits. Larionov's suspicion was confirmed. Some of the others were also starting off the new training year in a casual manner. The party committee took immediate organizational and indoctrinational steps on the basis of this conclusion. The task of overcoming the climate of laxity was set forth in seminars of the party and the Komsomol aktiv. Proper work methods were recommended. Members of the agitation group began explaining to the men the importance of making a great effort in the work. Up-to-date visual agitation was made up. The agitators made talks among the crews....

Thorough preparations were made for a party committee meeting, at which Captains A. Abromisov and N. Sergeyev presented reports. No, the criticism did not suit them. The communists received well-intended advice and gained a more thorough understanding of the consequences which could result from laxity in the training. Through the party aktiv all the communists in the regiment were informed of that

party committee meeting and of the decisions adopted there. All of the work performed had its effect. The laxity in the training ceased, there where it had been detected and where it had only begun to develop. Naturally, the party influence upon the training process was effected in union with steps taken by the commander to improve the quality of the exercises and with monitoring by the unit headquarters.

The report presented by Major Sadonov at the report-and-election meeting and the speeches by Major D. Larionov, Captain A. Losev and other comrades, who took the floor, discussed the need to continue developing what one of them expressed literally as "party sensitivity for problems coming to a head."

Very accurately described. Both these words and the above example express one of the most important principles of party work. After all, I will say frankly, it is not such an easy matter to correct large failings and omissions. Even if vigorous efforts are subsequently made, even with a system of effective steps and when the situation is being corrected--even in such cases, behind all this lies the question: Why was the situation allowed to deteriorate to this point? The answer is that there had previously been inaction and complacency.

Especially today, the party's Central Committee is directing the attention of the party organizations to the task of working in a focused manner, vigorously and constructively in the lagging areas, of bring them up to a level with those out front. The newly elected members of the party organs have something to think about. The experience of the party committee in the anti-aircraft missile regiment discussed above could be useful in this respect. It is important to detect a lag in the very initial stages, at its inception. The real art of party work is also manifested in this way. Incidentally, this is precisely why there are no lagging sections in the conventional sense of the term in this regiment. An unexpected failure somewhere or a drastic drop in certain indices--this is simply not permitted to happen. In this regiment they can see a problem "from afar," even where one might never be looked for in other units.

Take the following, for example. Twice a year the men in the regiment part with the fightingmen discharged into the reserve, just as they do everywhere. Ordinarily, the army formation loses first-class specialists, real military masters. A "lagging section" is thus created. This is considered to be a normal situation in other collectives. And this means that nothing can be done about it. They do not look at it this way in the given regiment. On the contrary, they say that they have to make certain the departure of the well trained specialists in no way lowers the combat readiness of the crews, the sections or subunits. This means that it is very important to see to the training of specialists in more than one related field in advance. And the party committee has never stood on the sideline in this matter.

It has been made mandatory in the regiment to have at least two party committee meetings a year--during the winter and the summer training period--at which the party organization's influence upon the development of reliable replacements for those to be released into the reserve is brought up, directly defined, for discussion. I shall not enumerate all of the measures aimed at assuring the absolute fulfillment of commitments for training fightingmen in two or three related

specialties. I want to discuss just one specific feature of the party committee's work--the professional work performed with the highly rated fightingmen. The question is not decided indiscriminately, not with mere appeals, but with the actual organization of teams of "twos" and "threes" or larger micro-collectives consisting of students and teacher.

The main thing which is done in this area, however, is to assure that the communists set a good personal example. The principle is simple: Pass everything which you know and everything you are able to do on to another. See to it that the soldier improves his skills. If you are in charge of a collective, create a situation in which the mastery of related specialties is the concern also of the Komsomol organization, and create the conditions necessary for planned work.

I listened to those who spoke at the report-and-election party meeting, including Major A. Nizovtsev, battery commander, Warrant Officer G. Toryanik, technician, Lieutenant Colonel A. Manichev, staff officer, and other regimental communists, and I experienced a sense of profound satisfaction. The unit missilemen have reached great heights. There was still an atmosphere of strict demandingness and confidence that even better indices would be achieved in the training and the service, however. Such an attitude on the part of the communists toward the fulfillment of their party and service duty can with complete justification be called an orientation toward deeds and not high-sounding words.

11499

CSO: 1801/115

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY CONFERENCE EXAMINES PARTY'S ROLE IN OFFICER TRAINING

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Bedzhanyan: "Party Conferences: A Mood for Work"]

[Text] Recently the large-circulation newspaper of the Order of Red Star Lvov Higher Military-Political School published an open letter from lieutenants V. Kovalenko, I. Kurbangaliyev, S. Mushak and V. Rekunets to graduating cadets. The letter is emotional and frank. The authors shared their first successes in officer duty, but still told more about the difficulties which they encountered among the troops. Difficulties will be fewer, they said in sharing their thoughts, if the time of cadet training is used in a really intensive, vigorous manner and if one has a detailed picture of the demand which life will be placing on a person.

I recalled this letter at the school party conference which discussed work which had been done and problems of further improving the training of future political workers.

School chief Maj Gen O. Zolotarev, who gave a briefing at the conference, emphasized: "Our graduates will take the main test after receiving diplomas-- in troop units and in practical work. There the work of party organizations of the school's chairs and subunits will receive a final grade. This work must be compared constantly with those high demands which our party places on the professional training and the political and moral qualities of cadres."

It is no accident that both the briefing and speeches by conference delegates, like the letter from the young officers which I mentioned, are associated by what one can say is a common mood. This is a concern for seeing that the training of Army and Navy political workers and each one's work and personality are up to modern demands. And therefore no matter what the subject of discussion, speakers invariably turned to resolutions of the June 1983 CPSU CC Plenum, and they evaluated both what had been done and what is to be done according to the plenum's criteria.

It was emphasized at the conference that after the plenum there was an even greater activation of the work of party organizations to improve the training process, to reinforce ties with the troops, to strengthen the practical

direction of training, and to merge academic, scientific and indoctrinational work. This was discussed in the briefing and in speeches by colonels V. Sadovskiy and I. Podobed and of other delegates. It was noted that there has been a significant enrichment in the content of academic lectures, there is wider use of the problem-oriented training method and the job-oriented game method, and it is the practice to integrate classes in military disciplines with a study of topics in cultural enlightenment work and military journalism.

Scientific research work also has enlivened in recent years. Two doctors and 35 candidates of sciences now are working at the school. The work of military science circles, in which a significant number of cadets are engaged, has become more active. There are permanent science methods seminars with young instructors and seminars on pedagogics and psychology with subunit commanders and political workers. The assignment of chairs to specific subunits has proven beneficial and has increased the instructors' participation in individual indoctrination of cadets.

The theme of a party member's personal responsibility for an assigned work area sounded with special force at the conference. The names of officers A. Zubr, V. Anisimov, V. Fomenko, V. Khamov, V. Remizov, I. Bordyukov and others were mentioned for whom a word about the need to improve the training process, boldly introduce everything new and foremost to it, and achieve effectiveness of every training minute does not deviate from the action. Foremost instructors and subunit commanders also take account in their work of the fact that the international situation has been aggravated sharply through the fault of reactionary U.S. imperialist circles, that Washington has declared a "crusade" against socialism as a social system, and that this aggressive course is confirmed daily by unbridled antisoviet slander and military preparations. The conference noted that it is an urgent task for every party member-indoctrinator to expose imperialism vigorously and in a well-reasoned manner, to make wide use of the methodology of counterpropaganda during academic classes, during indoctrinational activities and in individual influence on cadets, and at the same time to arm them more objectively with the ability to perform the very same work among the troops in a high offensive spirit.

The school graduate's future professional competency is reflected today in the level of his knowledge and his progress indicators. This is why, said conferees Col K. Bogachenko, Maj G. Manapov and Cadet V. Mukhin, we cannot be reconciled with the opinion existing in places that progress depends only on a cadet's abilities. This signifies a desire to find an excuse, and not the path to improving work with people. Party organizations must provide more objective assistance to each lagging cadet individually and find effective forms and methods for this.

What should be especially alarming is the fact that cadet-party members V. Giletskiy, V. Kukuruza, A. Rybachuk, M. Chernous, O. Surov and others are among those who are chronically behind. We must see behind this the fact that an atmosphere of principle and mutual exactingness is absent in some party organizations.

There was another reason as well which also was discussed frankly from the conference rostrum: inane classes conducted in a dispirited manner and characterized by stereotypes and isolation from life help develop average persons. Names mentioned were those of lieutenant colonels A. Degtyarev and A. Serov, Col V. Shchigolev and certain other instructors whose work lacks an imaginative search and initiative. In this regard the conference repeatedly heard suggestions for strengthening party demands for the quality of classes and for organizing more active propaganda of foremost experience.

For example, there is something to learn from Candidate of Historical Sciences Maj N. Ryazanov. In training future officers he makes active use of job-oriented games, the method of problem-oriented situations, homework assignment cards and cards for evaluating seminar classes. The evaluation of cadet presentations in seminars includes scientific spirit, innovation, concreteness, intelligibility of presentation, link with life, emotional nature, culture of speech and other criteria. A grade is given for each indicator, then points are summed up and the best presentation is determined. This seemingly is nothing complicated, but because of this there is a comprehensive check of the depth of knowledge and motivation for practicing specifically all components of a propagandist's proficiency. At the same time, the cadets' interest in seminar classes also rises sharply.

There also was a discussion at the conference to the effect that every instructor has to feel himself to be a propagandist and not miss opportunities for indoctrinational influence on an audience.

In their presentations Col V. Anisimov, L. Borisova and others cautioned that with all its seeming simplicity, this task is not an easy one. There was proper mention of the quality changes in the level of general education of young people and of their increased spiritual needs and greater degree of being informed. At the same time, however, some instructors, even those with a substantial term of service, forget that these changes also demand more delicate work with people, detailed explanations as proof, and freshness of thought and word.

The briefing by the school chief and the presentations noted that a major role in the development of future officers is played by the strict rhythm of the school's internal life, by exemplary organization of studies, troop duties and the cadets' routine, and by the personal example set by subunit commanders and political workers and all officers. Party organizations have to increase their attention to these matters as well. Every officer-party member must be imbued by a profound understanding of the fact that a graduate most often "makes a life" by choosing as an example a person whom he observes daily. Work style; attitude toward official duties, social assignments, and seniors and juniors; moral appraisals of what is going on around a person; spiritual needs; and the culture of feelings and speech--all this and much more is reflected in the cadets' awareness and becomes a unique standard of a position in life, aspirations and conduct. Therefore, noted majors G. Manapov and A. Yegorov in their presentations, we have to proceed in party work from the assumption that the very concept of a party member's personal example has expanded considerably today and become more voluminous. For example, it is much easier to give

cadets a taste for indoctrinational work when they see before them an officer for whom participation in indoctrination is not a "burden" but a calling.

Questions of party members' exemplariness also were examined in the report of the school political department party commission given by Col V. Onoshko. He sharply criticized in particular officers V. Logvinov and A. Muguyev, who have an unconscientious attitude toward performance of their official and party obligations. The report discussed the need to reinforce moral indoctrination in party organizations.

No matter what question was touched on at the conference, the speakers were unanimous in saying that successful resolution of tasks facing the school depends to a decisive extent on the party members' initiative and each person's responsible attitude toward the assigned job. It is necessary to have a constant analysis of what has been achieved and an imaginative exploration aimed at improving the quality of the training and indoctrinational process and the indoctrination of future political workers in a spirit of the party's modern demands.

Taking part in the work of the school party conference and speaking there were Lt Gen B. Utkin, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy; V. Sekretaryuk, first secretary of the Lvov Gorkom of the Ukrainian Communist Party; and Maj Gen Ye. Mikul'chik, first deputy chief of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District political directorate.

6904

CSO: 1801/142

MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

STRENGTHENING IDEOLOGICAL, POLITICAL WORK

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Col. Gen. V. Bychenko, chief of the political directorate of military construction units: "With Exacting Care"]

[Text] The decisions of the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of our party's central committee and the speeches of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Yu. V. Andropov contain a clear program for further improving ideological and mass political work and strengthening its influence on training people.

A business-like and interest-provoking discussion is now going on at report and election party meetings and conferences on how to carry out these most important decisions. With growing demands in this area, communists are discussing questions on further increasing the quality and effectiveness of party work, strengthening its influence on all aspects of life, military training, service, economic and production activities and developing socialist competition among the troops. During the reports and elections, of course, the condition of all educational work is especially clearly evident if an environment is provided for the evaluation in principle of the personal contribution of each communist and for a strict demand from administrators for shortcomings and negligence.

A large detachment of politically mature, highly-qualified and energetic specialists, good organizers and trainers, are working in military construction organizations and units and at military enterprises and construction projects. Thanks, to a considerable extent, to this, the military builders have successfully completed the plans for the first two years of the five-year plan and are also fulfilling, on the whole, the intensive plans of the third year.

Take, for example, the advanced military construction collectives headed by comrades A. Velikiy, V. Dukhin, V. Sukhov, Yu. Rossomakhov, G. Glazunov and L. Smirnov. The command and the political organs, leaning for support on the party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, are able to select the main point from all the various points and to concentrate the efforts of the people on it and bring it unflinching to a conclusion. Here the rule has become--begin any large-scale matter by mobilizing public opinion and the collective thought and energy of the communists toward solving the problems which have

ripened. And not only of the communists. Questions on personnel training, closeness to people, the yearning to take stock and to foresee the educational consequences of the decisions which have been made and their effects, have been placed in the forefront in these collectives. Commanders, political workers, and other administrators, as a rule, organically combine in their work style a demanding nature, efficiency with responsiveness, and the ability to care about subordinates.

I will not begin to assert that everything is ideal here, that all of the problems have been solved even in these, the best of our military and labor collectives. Here there is considerable potential for strengthening the party's influence in all spheres of activity. The command, political organs, and party organizations see this and they are implementing the designated measures in a business-like fashion, following the rule: all of our work--ideological, political and educational, organizational, economic--combine into a close unity.

The results speak for themselves. Year in and year out our outstanding workers increase the effectiveness and quality of labor and provide a firm order and state of organization, as well as high military and labor discipline. From here also comes substantially high indicators in production and in socialist competition.

At the same time, one cannot but admit that there has been no success in obtaining decisive changes for the better, on the whole, in capital construction. Proper order is not always being provided at a number of military construction projects, downtimes due to disorganization and irresponsibility in supply are still great, and planning and technological discipline is low. All of this leads to large losses in the final work results, engenders mismanagement, and creates the soil for breaches of discipline and various abuses which demoralize people.

Thus, because of the weak organization of production, the inability to arrange material and technical provisioning and to carry out educational work in a purposeful way, the construction organizations, for example, of the Siberian Military District, the collective led by comrade V. Krivenko, have not been able to cope with last year's planned task.

An analysis of the state of affairs in these organizations shows that party influence there is obviously not effective enough on the fundamental questions of life, the training and production activities of units and subunits, and the development of socialist competition.

I recall one of the speeches of Hero of Socialist Labor, USSR state prize winner, honored builder of the RSFSR, Soviet army worker I. Savotikov, the leader of a contract team. He said then that there were no objective reasons to explain those losses which we incur because of disorganization and bad management at the construction projects. With a workman's straightforwardness, he concluded: "I fully realize that if each of us, irrespective of the post we hold and our duties, would treat our own responsibilities conscientiously, then our work would proceed better."

This is not simply a matter of words for this splendid builder. The collective which he heads, and a majority in it are military builders, have not experienced cases of absenteeism and other flagrant breaches of discipline for a long time. During the last ten years, under I. Savotikov's leadership, they have built 26 multi-storied buildings--more than 135,000 square meters of living space.

The team led by I. Savotikov was the first in the USSR Ministry of Defense to switch to working according to the Zlobinskiy method. Based on its model, we could discern and evaluate what enormous possibilities for influencing each person, forming his consciousness, and teaching a true collectivism and feeling of personal responsibility are placed on a team operating on a unified schedule. And finally, that which also affects, of course, the production indicators is a wholesome, moral atmosphere in the local collectives and a firm labor discipline.

We are now introducing the team contract everywhere. For example, such teams carry out up to 40 percent of the construction installation work in the Belorussian Military District. Their share of the total work volume of the construction directorates of the Odessa, Kiev, Volga and Leningrad Military Districts, the Black Sea Fleet, in the organizations which are headed by comrades A. Korytko and V. Mikhaylichenko, and in a number of others is growing.

However, one must admit that at the present time there has been far from complete success in creating conditions for a business-like, party concern for the introduction of advanced labor organization methods and the economically correct conduct of production. Political organs and party organizations often reconcile themselves to the fact that switching teams to contract is frequently a formality, only for figures in an account, and is not supported by the necessary organizational and material and technical measures. Thus, a gap develops between words and deeds. This inevitably involves appreciable moral losses, disturbs personnel training, and breeds rush work and shock work in production. And a strict demand does not always follow this.

This was exactly how matters were until recently in the military construction organization where Lieutenant Colonel V. Soldatov is chief of the political section. There, because of constant shock work in production, political lessons with the military builders were quite often disrupted and political information sessions were not conducted. People could not listen to the radio for weeks, did not watch television for months, and did not have the opportunity to read newspapers. Must one have to mention today how intolerable such a practice is?

I would like to stress that the strengthening of military training for our units has special importance. For whoever a military builder might be--a bricklayer or crane operator, a sanitary engineer or bulldozer operator--he is first of all a soldier. During his two years of service he must acquire the necessary level of combat and specialized training, skills in carrying out guard and administrative duty and in strictly fulfilling the requirements of the military oath and combined-arms regulations. Moreover, discipline is stronger and labor is more productive there where a prescribed routine has been provided and an army life style has been established.

I will cite as an example the military construction detachment whose commander is Major L. Shipurnov and whose deputy for political affairs is Senior Lieutenant V. Zhugny. Standard conditions for training, work, and the everyday life of the personnel have been created and are being constantly maintained here. There is a firm prescribed routine in the subunits and lessons on combat, political and specialized training proceed in an organized fashion. Russian language study has been arranged for those troops who have a weak knowledge of it. I want to note especially that the detachment carries out all educational work with the multinational composition of the military collective in mind.

The military construction units have everything that is necessary to carry out active and effective political and educational work. A system of political preparation, party and economic training, and Komsomol and political education has been established. Up to three hours a week have been set aside for political lessons. In a majority of the units there are clubs and libraries, combat and labor glory rooms, and significant funds have been allotted for cultural and educational work, the acquisition of literature, newspapers, magazines, and technical means of propaganda. One must use these resources effectively and in a business-like manner to further strengthen ideological conviction and political maturity, and to improve the moral qualities of the military builders.

During the time which has passed since the 26th CPSU Congress, definite experience in improving party leadership in accordance with the directives of subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums has been accumulated. The political organs of the military construction organizations and units, in carrying out the recommendations of the 6th all-army conference of primary party organization secretaries, have become noticeably more active in searching for ways to strengthen party influence over the successful completion of production tasks, and over questions of strengthening military and labor discipline. Temporary party groups, voluntary construction project staffs, party organization secretary councils, and people's control posts are being established at the most important projects under construction, and regular snap inspections and reviews of economy and thrift are being carried out. Demands on communist leaders for organizing training, service, and the everyday life of the military builders and for unifying the multinational military and labor collectives are being increased. A recently-held scientific and practical conference of the management and ideological staffs of the USSR Ministry of Defense construction and billeting organs devoted itself to these questions. Meanwhile the results of the past report and election party meetings show that several units and military construction organizations are still paying insufficient attention to the formation within the officers of such a work style which is based on a closeness to people, a unity of word and deed, a high exacting attitude toward themselves, a simplicity in relationships, and modesty in personal life. Work with violators of moral norms is not always fruitful and an intolerant atmosphere toward any deviation from the demands of party, state, and military discipline has still not been created in each collective.

A well-defined control and check-up on the decisions which have been made assist in cultivating efficiency, responsibility, and adherence to principles. It is not enough here only to record successes and shortcomings. The main thing is to understand the causes for the appearance of both good and bad and to improve things. It is not simply the economic results and production indicators that are important but also the cost of achieving them.

To improve the task to the utmost, the political directorate, political organs and the party organizations of the military construction units regard educational work as one of the most important aspects of its activities for affirming the Leninist work style in accordance with the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the past CPSU Central Committee plenums, and the directives of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet comrade Yu. V. Andropov. With the present exacerbation of the international situation, the military builders profoundly recognize the necessity of raising political vigilance and labor activity even higher and of increasing their contribution to the support of the combat readiness of the army and navy and to the strengthening of the economic and defensive might of our fatherland.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Service on Kamchatka Praised

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 83 p 4

[Article: "Test for Maturity"]

[Text] Dear Editors! The article in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA of 25 August, "Time of First Tests," brought back these memories to me. The fact is that I began my officer service on Kamchatka and I was extremely fortunate that my character would undergo a test for maturity precisely in a distant garrison, at the "edge of the Earth." My heart preserves the events of that time up to the present. We liked it on Kamchatka. Although there is no denying there were much fewer conveniences there than in the garrison which, as the article's author writes, Lieutenant Aleksandr Nikolayev left. But we created even them with our own hands. First--mud huts. Later--a barracks. Of course, there was no trace of theaters or museums. Our wives created amateur talent activities. They were genuine combat female friends. And we still valued the confidence which had been rendered: to serve where the interests of the motherland require. Stronger than all the bad weather and adversities was our army tempering, the readiness to overcome everything, and to accomplish our duty to the fatherland. Officer's shoulder boards were on our shoulders. And this also filled us with pride.

The absolute majority of our sons are continuing the cause of their fathers in a worthy manner. I, a frontline fighter, read with joy about Lieutenant Aleksandr Dvornikov who, after completing military school with distinction, requested that he be sent to serve in a remote garrison where his father once served. Well, one can only be happy for the senior Dvornikov--he has an excellent son, and the motherland has a reliable defender.

Lieutenant Colonel (Reserve) B. Kustov,
veteran of the Great Patriotic War

Editors Respond to Criticism

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Oct 83 p 4

[Article: "Propagandize Leading Experience Actively"]

[Text] A survey of military journals was published under this heading on 9 September. Along with favorable features, individual shortcomings were noted in it concerning the work of the editorial collectives of the journals TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE and AVIATSIYA I KOSMONAVTIKA in generalizing and propagandizing leading experience.

The editor-in-chief of the journal TEKHNIKA I VOORUZHENIYE, Engineer Major General Yu. Voinov, reported that the critical remarks expressed in the survey of military journals were discussed at a meeting of the editorial board and measures have been planned for their elimination. In particular, the long-range thematic plan has been adjusted with consideration of the recommendations expressed in the survey. A party and trade union meetings are being prepared at which the questions raised by the newspaper will also be discussed.

The survey of military journals, "Propagandize Leading Experience Actively," reported the editor-in-chief of the journal AVIATSIYA I KOSMONAVTIKA, Colonel O. Nazarov, was discussed at a service conference, at a session of the editorial board, and at a party meeting. The management of the editorial board, the party organization, and the entire journalist collective are adopting measures to eliminate shortcomings which are present and improve the work of the journal in light of the remarks and desires indicated in the survey.

The task has been posed for the editors of departments and all journalists to display greater initiative and persistence in placing on the pages of the journal urgent, topical problems in the training and indoctrination of Soviet aviators with consideration of the sharply aggravated international situation, to elaborate problems raised by the journal more completely and in a more reasoned manner, and to attain a rise in the ideological-theoretical and journalistic level of the materials.

The editors of departments met with the leaders of services and directorates of the Air Forces Main Staff and discussed to what extent the journal's publications meet contemporary requirements and which questions must be dealt with more effectively. Their advice and comments have been adopted for implementation.

In light of the propositions expressed in the survey of journals, the plan for publications and the thematic trend of materials of the next issue (No 12 for 1983) as well as plans for preparing subsequent issues have been adjusted. The remarks and proposals contained in the survey have found broad reflection in the thematic plan for the year 1984. Measures have been adopted to inform the readers about each critical statement. Materials will be published regularly under the headings "In the Wake of Our Statements" and "Returning to What Has Been Printed."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Solicits Readers' Comments

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 83 p 4

[Article: "We Invite You to a Readers' Council"]

[Text] Dear Friends! It has already become a tradition to turn to the readers with the question: how would you like to see your newspaper in the new year? We are also turning to you with this question now as we ponder the subject matter and main trends of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publications in 1984. Naturally, it is very important for us to learn your desires, suggestions, advice, and remarks. They will help us to accomplish more successfully one of the main requirements of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee for the press: to see that each publication and each newspaper article attracts and convinces people with the depth of penetration into life, well-reasoned presentation of arguments and devotion to principle, freshness, sharpness of thought and word, clarity of presentation, and brilliance of style.

As formerly, the newspaper will systematically publish materials devoted to the explanation and propagandizing of our party's theory and policy and the demonstration of the advantages of the socialist system, socialism's historic achievements, and the heroic labor of the Soviet people in accomplishing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums of the party's Central Committee. We should like to know your opinion on the materials being published on these subjects and to hear which articles you would like to see on the newspaper's pages along these thematic directions. It will be good if you propose specific subjects for articles and new headings and share your opinion as to what urgent problems in military organizational development and Marxist-Leninist teaching on the defense of the socialist fatherland, for example, could be placed in the newspaper in your opinion, considering the present international situation.

In the future, too, the main place on the newspaper's pages will be occupied by questions of raising combat readiness and vigilance and improving field, air, and sea training. In your opinion, in what directions is it expedient to work out these subjects in the future? Are you satisfied by publications of the newspaper which disclose leading experience in training and the organization of socialist competition and questions in the development of military personnel and the improvement of their work style? How can the newspaper better conduct such directions, which are important for you, as illumination of the struggle for order as called for by the regulations and the strengthening of military discipline? What problems in the activity of military educational institutions is it expedient to place on the newspaper's pages?

After the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the newspaper began to deal more actively with questions of ideological, party-political, and indoctrinational work in the Soviet Armed Forces. This thematic direction of the newspaper will be one of the basic in the forthcoming year, too. We believe it necessary to consult with you as to how we can show better, more instructively, and more objectively in the newspaper the process of the renewal, enrichment, and making more topical the content of ideological-indoctrinational work in units, on ships, and in military educational institutions and raising its

effectiveness. What materials would you want to read on questions of the work of political organs and party and Komsomol organizations and on intensifying the indoctrinational role of the military collectives? We will be grateful to you if you also name the subjects of articles in this direction, propose headings, and suggest directions for leading experience in ideological and party-political work.

Recently, the newspaper has been publishing more feature stories, journalistic articles, and correspondence on leading people and veterans of the Armed Forces. Judging from comments, the readers are greeting with approval materials under the headings "People of a Great Fate," "Communists in Combat Formation," "Leading People in the Armed Forces," "The Regimental (Ship) Commander: Post and Personality," and others. We will continue this line in the newspaper, being guided by the requirements of the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee: to disclose impressively the model of our contemporary, the person of labor--the bearer of lofty ideological-moral qualities, an active citizen of a socialist society, and builder of communism. We hope that you will mention the names of the motherland's armed defenders, representatives of older and present generations, and people of a really great fate who are worthy of being discussed in the newspaper.

The 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War is approaching. In this connection, the editors intend to intensify illumination of the heroic subject and the glorious combat traditions of our Armed Forces. What would you like to advise on this section of our work?

A prominent place on the pages of the newspaper will also be devoted to an illumination of the achievements and prospects for the development of Soviet science and technology and the improvement of the production activity of military-construction subunits and industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Defense. Our important task is a further rise in the saturation of the newspaper with information and effectiveness in illuminating the life of the country and the Soviet Armed Forces. We would like you to express your grievances, remarks, and suggestions on these thematic directions, too. We request you to express your opinion on selections of materials under the headings "Azimuth," "Our Home," "Search," on the page "Dialogue. Reader--Newspaper," and on the publication of readers' letters.

One of the paramount tasks of our newspaper is the exposure of the aggressive policy and practice of imperialism and, first of all, of U.S. imperialism, and to show convincingly and in a well-reasoned manner its military preparations and its striving to eliminate the socialist achievements of the peoples militarily. We await your suggestions and desires on this direction, too. What, in your opinion, could the editors do to increase the aggressive nature of materials on international subjects? What would you like to read about the life of the peoples and armies of the socialist countries?

We also ask you to share your opinions on the following questions:

--Do the materials published by the newspaper which are devoted to the culture and living conditions of the Soviet servicemen, the improvement of physical training, and the development of sport in the Armed Forces satisfy you? To what problems should more attention be devoted here?

--How do you evaluate the quality of the excerpts from writers' artistic works, stories, poems, and reviews of works having a heroic-patriotic character which are published by the newspaper? The works of which writers would you like to see on the pages of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA? About which of the figures of literature and art would you like to read in the sections of the newspaper "Dugout" and "Meetings on Your Request"?

--What is your opinion on the supplement to the Saturday edition of the newspaper? What would you propose to enrich its content and expand the subject matter? How would you like to see Sunday editions of the newspaper?

The range of questions on the labor, life, and living conditions of the servicemen as well as the members of their families is very broad and varied. In your opinion, which of these questions does the newspaper fail to take into consideration and which of them should be reflected on the pages of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA?

So, we await your letters!

Our address: 123826, GSP, Moscow, D-317, Khoroshevskoye shosse, 38.

Please place on the envelope: "Readers' Council."

Location Chosen for Hospital Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Col G. Ivanov and Maj A. Ladin: "Do Not Weaken Attention; Follow-Up on a Letter"]

[Text] "Dear Editors!" Since the republic clinical hospital for disabled veterans of the Patriotic War was moved from the center of Alma-Ata to the mountains, at an altitude of 1,200 meters, many of us in essence have been deprived of the opportunity to receive treatment there. The trouble is that elderly people who suffer from serious ailments feel poorly at such an altitude. In the situation which has developed, your help is necessary...."

(From a letter from disabled veterans of the Patriotic War.)

The hospital building was located on the picturesque slope of a cone-shaped hill in the very thick of Tyan'-Shan' firs and birches. The eye is pleased by the magnificent view of the Trans-Ili Alatau. It is silent and quiet everywhere.

"In the not too distant past," relates the chief of the hospital, K. Tastanbekov, "our patients repeatedly turned to various instances with the request that the hospital be moved from the noisy center a little closer to nature. That is how the hospital received a new address."

We also talked with some of the frontline veterans and asked their opinion about the location of the hospital and the conditions for treatment in it. Former aviator Sergeant M. Danilov is in the hospital for the fourth time already. He is satisfied: conditions are considerably better at the new place, there are places to take a walk and find seclusion, and it is easy to breathe. Lieutenant (Retired) S. Aripov who once fought in the airborne troops and was wounded at Warsaw also feels well. He is now undergoing a course of preventive treatment. He is very grateful to the medical personnel for the treatment and attention.

We also heard such responses from many other disabled war veterans. They clearly were at odds with the letter sent to the editors. However, as it turned out, the authors of the letter were also correct in their own way: by no means can all those who need treatment now enjoy the services of the hospital. Thus, in the Ministry of Health of the Kazakh SSR it was explained directly to disabled veterans of the Patriotic War A. Abevov, M. Bagayev, and A. Tel'bayev that the location of the hospital is an obstacle which interferes with accepting those who suffer with ischemic disease of the heart with frequent disruptions of rhythm, expressed cardiac insufficiency, and second stage hypertension. So that, on the one hand those who decided the question of moving the hospital to the mountains displayed attention to the requests of part of the disabled veterans but, on the other hand...created an entire complex of new difficulties and inconveniences.

We visited, for example, the consultation point where the nature of a veteran's disease and the advisability of his treatment in the hospital are determined. Formerly, the point was located directly on the territory of the hospital and had good conditions for the reception and investigation of patients. Now the situation has changed substantially. It proved to be a difficult matter even for us, healthy people, to find the point in the thick of city blocks. And how can a person on crutches, with an acute disease, set out on a search? In addition the specialists of the consultation point are now forced to conduct reception in a small office where the card file and medical instrument sets are dumped together on top of everything else.

At the point they again confirmed for us: now only some of the sick are sent to the hospital, in which regard, far from the most serious as formerly. The section for purulent surgery has ceased functioning. Surgeons have refused to perform the most difficult operations: the patients withstand such operations more poorly under mountain conditions.

By the way, other discrepancies also arose from the first days of the hospital's stay in the new place. Let us say, concerning the delivery of servicing personnel to the place of work and concerning the emergency hospitalization of the disabled. It is pleasing that some of the problems were solved soon: service transportation began to ply along five routes at a convenient time and the sick are delivered from the airport and railway stations by special vehicles. But nevertheless, many problems are still awaiting solution.

For example, in the hospital it is very difficult to order a long-distance telephone call. Visitors wait for the bus at the stop for several hours. In winter, when the transportation cannot climb the steep, slippery road passengers,

including the disabled, are forced to leave the bus almost a kilometer from the hospital gate. The barber shop where, by the way, only men are served operates poorly. The snack bar is located in a small half-basement and it is impossible for a disabled veteran on crutches, not to mention in a wheelchair, to get there.

We talked about all the problems mentioned with many officials. The first deputy minister of public health of the Kazakh SSR, M. Gribanov, in particular, reported that a section for disabled war veterans for whom treatment under high mountain conditions is counterindicated is envisioned in the new municipal multicategory hospital which is already under construction. A balneary will operate for them on the basis of local mineral waters. In the next few years, sections of the same type will be created in Karaganda, Semipalatinsk, Chimkent, and Kustanay.

In short, if everything planned is accomplished, then evidently this will in considerable measure solve the problem of treating those war disabled for whom treatment in a hospital located in the mountains is counterindicated. The deputy minister of consumer services of the Kazakh SSR, K. Talymbekov, and the chief of the department for bus transportation of the Alma-Ata City Passenger Motor Transport Administration, I. Kremnev, promise to adopt the necessary measures.

But we did not encounter such understanding among all officials with whom we had the occasion to speak. For example, the chief engineer of the Alma-Ata municipal telephone system, Zh. Kalenov, said that because of the way the hospital is located a booth for long-distance calls cannot be installed in it. One can hardly agree with this. Nor did we succeed in convincing the appropriate comrades of the necessity for a special pavilion for the snack bar. As we understood it, the problem turned on the fact that some organizations have the set for such a pavilion but cannot install it while others will not undertake the work because it concerns unplanned construction. Does it turn out that the stairs to this trade point which are insurmountable for many disabled will remain as is?

Yes, the deed is done: the republic clinical hospital for disabled veterans of the Patriotic War is now located out of town, in the mountains. However, now it is necessary to adopt all measures so as not to weaken attention to this special therapeutic institution and to people who left much of their strength and health on the fields of past battles.

Letters Received by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Nov 83 p 2

[Article: KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Mail]

[Text] The editors received 11,102 letters in October. Of them 589 were published. Four hundred sixty-two comments on articles in the newspaper arrived.

The editor's mail of the last month reflected the entire variety of the life of our Armed Forces and the country. The readers informed the newspaper of the results of the concluding lessons and checks and of the indices attained in the course of socialist competition under the slogan "Increase vigilance, ensure the

motherland's security reliably!" The letters present evidence of the lofty patriotic enthusiasm with which the troop and labor collectives of the Armed Forces are greeting the 66th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Captain P. Tuzov of the Volga Military District told of the increased combat skill of the personnel in the artillery battalion commanded by Major D. Zariyev. The artillerymen especially distinguished themselves on the exercise which concluded the training year when they had to fight with "enemy" reserves which appeared unexpectedly. "All batteries demonstrated exceptional accuracy and coordination in this training battle," it says in the letter. "Such a dangerous target as a rocket launcher was bracketed by the first salvos. The artillerymen also conducted accurate fire against other targets from the reserve of the opposing side."

Today, readers write, when the international situation has been sharply aggravated, the requirements imposed on the motherland's armed defenders have grown many-fold. And the officers are required to present a permanent example here. Engineer-Captain 3d Rank A. Kotlukov, Lieutenant S. Balashov, Warrant Officer [michman] S. D'yakov, and other communists of the submarine which recently returned from an ocean cruise proceed in precisely this manner. The letter of the Pacific Fleet officer Captain-Lieutenant V. Ryaboshlyk describes the skill and tactical maturity with which the seamen accomplished prolonged observation of an "enemy" submarine. Being the equal of the communists, the crew concentrated primary attention on attaining high quality indices and concluded the long voyage with the successful accomplishment of all combat-training missions.

The large influx of letters to the editors was caused by the election campaign which is continuing in party and Komsomol organizations. Major V. Pavlinov of the Odessa Military District, Senior Lieutenant L. Chervinko of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Warrant Officer [praporshchik] G. Smirnov of the Moscow Military District, and many other readers report that party and Komsomol election meetings are contributing to a rise in the activity, initiative, and personal responsibility of the communists and Komsomols in the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to the Soviet servicemen in connection with the complication of the international situation. In light of the requirements of the 26th Party Congress and the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, party and Komsomol organizations of the Armed Forces are evaluating the results of their labor self-critically and disclosing and putting into action unused reserves in order to achieve more in the new training year in the struggle for a further rise in the combat readiness of units, ships, and subunits.

The editors' daily mail contains many letters supporting the Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yu. V. Andropov. "With our labor and the strengthening of the country's economic might we will not allow the conflagration of a new world war to break out," senior Lieutenant (Reserve) T. Rostiashvili, a lathe hand of the Tbilissi Aircraft Plant imeni Dimitrov and deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, writes the editors. And here are lines from the letter of a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) F. Makarov from Istra, Moscow Oblast: "To live in peace is the dream of every Soviet person.

But if required, our entire people, from the small to the great, will rise for the defense of the beloved motherland." "In his Declaration," says Major V. Brylyakov of the Transbaykal Military District, "Comrade Yu. V. Andropov stressed that we are able to ensure the security of our country and the security of our friends and allies under any conditions. The Soviet servicemen are corroborating the ponderability of each of its words with selfless soldierly labor."

Loyalty to communist ideals and combat traditions and the lofty duty of the heirs to the unfading glory of the frontline fighters are stimulating the Soviet servicemen to improve their combat training tirelessly and defend the achievements of the Great October and the security of the socialist motherland vigilantly and dependably.

Serviceman Complains of Airplane Ticket Service

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Col A. Pinchuk: "Airplane Ticket Problems"]

[Text] The problem of an airplane ticket was also recalled this summer. It would appear that in Leningrad, in addition to the central ticket offices on Nevskiy Prospekt there are ticket offices in each rayon and there is the transportation agency which sells tickets for airplanes in accordance with telephone orders. But the fact is that all the listed Aeroflot conveniences do not pertain to servicemen. For them--for local as well as through passengers--in the entire city only two ticket windows in the small basement of a so-called airport terminal are allotted. If we consider here the speed with which airplane tickets are prepared in accordance with military requirements, it is easy to imagine the situation: stuffy air, lists, and roll calls.

I came to this small basement with a requirement in hand for the first time in my life 20 years ago. Since then, there are many times more trips available, a new remarkable airport has appeared, and for servicemen--two ticket windows as formerly. But you see, in other cities, for example in Murmansk, the same airplane tickets are sold to servicemen at all ticket windows. Railway personnel also take orders from us by telephone everywhere. This means that the situation is not so hopeless if, of course, there is the desire to find a way out.

Respectfully,

B. Korotkov

KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Colonel A. Pinchuk familiarized with this letter the officials on whom the improvement in servicing servicemen passengers depends to one degree or another.

Colonel S. Doroshin, deputy chief of military communications, Leningrad Military District:

In principle, the author of the letter poses the problem correctly: servicemen have the right to enjoy the blessings of the services sphere equally with all citizens. Moreover, when the times for the transportation are connected with the accomplishment of service duties we--the representatives of military communications--also join in. And I should say that Aeroflot deals with our requests with understanding and satisfies almost all our requirements.

However, a number of questions posed by the author go beyond the framework of the capabilities of VOSO [military transportation service]. For example, ordering tickets by telephone. This service is rendered to passengers by the Leningrad transportation agency--an intermediary organization. In refusing to accept military requirements, the comrades justify this by the low professional level of the cashiers who are unable to perform the necessary recalculations. For this very same reason they also refuse to service servicemen at the ticket windows of the Leningrad Central Agency for Air Communications. Although they are required to service them. We are trying to adopt all measures to eliminate this shortfall.

As regards new premises for military air ticket windows, representatives of the agency promise to provide them when the new air terminal building, the construction of which will begin next year, goes into operation.

V. Golubkov, chief of the Leningrad Central Agency for Air Communications:

The author of the letter laid it on somewhat thickly. First, not two but four cashiers are operating at the address which he names. It is another matter that the cashiers enjoy breaks in accordance with a sliding schedule and one ticket window does not operate for half a work day. Second, servicemen may get tickets in all of the city's rayon ticket offices, and when it is necessary to prepare the dispatch of a party, we immediately have several cashiers and the central agency join in. And in my opinion, it makes no sense to increase the number of special ticket windows for servicemen in general. They operate with a heavy load only three or four months per year. Moreover, even now we are preparing for the computer processing of orders. The test operation of the "Sirena-2" system will begin in 1984. And this means that the speed of preparing the tickets will increase two-and-a-half-or three-fold.

As to what, in our opinion, could noticeably improve the servicing of servicemen in Aeroflot it is simplification of the calculations in preparing military tickets. It is believed that such a necessity has long been pressing and requires that it be seriously considered by competent organs of the Soviet Ministry of Defense. And for the time being, we are actually experiencing difficulties--only highly qualified cashiers can work with military requirements.

Sergeant Complains About Mess Conditions

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Engr-Col B. Lyapkalo: "Ours and...Others'"]

[Text] Dear editors! Our subunit is located on the same military post with an artillery regiment. Because of a shortage of

tables and dishes, feeding in the soldiers' mess is organized in two shifts. We have been allotted the second shift. Frequently, with the arrival of our shift the tables have not been cleared away and the food has gotten cold. And really, the quality of its preparation leaves much to be desired. Sometimes, there is not enough food. We have appealed to our commanders many times. They placed the problem before the regimental command. But thus far, no noticeable improvement can be seen.

Sergeant I. Kononov

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Engineer-Colonel B. Lyapkalo visited the place. Here is what he reported.

On that day, officer V. Pentyugov was the duty officer for the subunit from which the letter arrived. He confirmed the facts which were reported to the editors. Even the officer himself many times had to see that the tables had been cleared and completely set prior to the arrival of the second shift. But he succeeded in this with difficulty and not always.

The trouble is that the regimental duty officer leaves the mess hall as soon as the unit personnel eat. And the mess hall duty man, cooks, and detail assigned here for work in essence are left without supervision. The impression is created that here they operate in accordance with the principle: the main thing is to feed "their own" in time and with good quality, and their neighbors--any way it turns out. And here, on the day when the correspondent visited the post the mess duty man was not at the place although dinner was not yet finished. To put it mildly, the quality of the food was below average.

From talks with Major N. Khromov who was temporarily the acting regimental commander, the secretary of the regimental party bureau Lieutenant Colonel V. Torzhinskiy, and the political officer, Major V. Balaban, it was learned that they were well informed about the shortcomings in organizing the feeding of the personnel. Moreover, for omissions in work the deputy regimental commander for rear services, Captain V. Zaklyuk, had been given severe punishment and the negligent chief of the soldiers' mess, Warrant Officer [praporshchik] V. Malakhov, was also punished. And despite these measures, breakdowns in the organization of the men's feeding are continuing. All this does not occur because of any objective reasons but only due to the absence of proper concern for people and for satisfaction of their needs and requirements as well as due to the low demandingness of officials toward subordinates. It is time for the regimental command to bring about proper order in the organization of the feeding of this subunit's men.

Measures Adopted to Improve Low Morale

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 83 p 2

[Article: "The Storm Arrived from the...Shore"]

[Text] The article by Captain 1st Rank N. Remizov which was published this 3 September told about the poor moral climate and mismanagement in the UNR [work supervisor's section] collective subordinate to the Leningrad Naval Base.

As was reported to the editors by the deputy chief of the political department of the base and naval educational institutions in Leningrad, Captain 1st Rank G. Yakovlev, the criticism was acknowledged to be valid.

The newspaper's article was discussed comprehensively in the political department with the participation of the supervisory personnel of the UNR and the naval engineering service (MIS) of the base as well as at an open party meeting of the UNR. During the discussion of the article shortcomings which are present in the work of the UNR command were profoundly disclosed and specific proposals for their elimination were introduced.

The party commission with the political department examined the personal file of communist and chief of the UNR, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel A. Podkletnov. He has been seriously warned for omissions in work and poor political-indoctrinational work in the collective.

The chief of the base MIS, Engineer-Colonel A. Astapenko, the deputy chief of the political department, Colonel V. Michetashvili, the chief of the UNR, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel A. Podkletnov, and the secretary of the UNR party bureau, A. Dudchenko, were heard in the political department. The presence of serious omissions in work was pointed out to them and it was recommended that they undertake urgent measures to improve the situation in the UNR collective and tighten things up at construction sites.

Thanks to the measures which have been adopted, the plan for nine months of the current five-year plan in the UNR has been accomplished in all indices and the moral-psychological climate in the collective is being improved.

Clerical Error Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Nov 83 p 2

[Article: "Purely a Technical Error"]

[Text] The letter from V. Mamayeva which was published under this heading on 29 September was answered by the military commissar of the Chechen-Ingush ASSR, Colonel A. Shevchenko. He reported that an administrative investigation had been conducted. A severe reprimand was given to the chief clerk, N. Afanas'yeva, due to whose negligence the file of candidate L. Mamayev had not been sent to the military school. At a trade union meeting, the decision was adopted that in case of a repeated violation of rules for clerical work she will be relieved from work. Poor monitoring of the dispatch of documents was pointed out to Lieutenant Colonel A. Sinyavskiy.

The letter was discussed in the political department of the military commissariat and at a service conference of military commissars. A lesson was conducted with persons who prepare documents of candidates for military educational institutions

L. Mamayev has received apologies.

6367

CSO: 1801/093

ARMED FORCES

RESPONSIBILITIES, PRIVILEGES OF CONSCRIPTS OUTLINED

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 20, Oct 83 (signed to press 28 Sep 83) p 35

[Article by Lt Col Justice P. Sazonov: "Privileges for Conscripts"]

[Text] Our readers N. Safronov, V. Kravchenko, and others request that we tell about the procedure for calling the youth up to the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces and about the responsibilities and privileges of conscripts.

In accordance with the Soviet constitution, universal military obligation is the law and military service in the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces is the honorable duty of Soviet citizens. Male citizens suitable for active service by reasons of health must perform active military service without exception regardless of origin, social and property status, race and nationality, education, language, attitude toward religion, type and nature of occupation, and place of residence.

In accordance with the Soviet law, "On the Universal Military Obligation," the call-up of citizens for active military service is conducted twice each year everywhere (in May-June and in November-December, and for troops located in remote and several other localities--in April and October) on order of the Soviet Minister of Defense. In the year of call-up for active military service, conscripts cannot be released from work on the initiative of the administration except for persons who systematically violate labor discipline.

The training of specialists for the Armed Forces (drivers, radio operators, and others) is conducted in training organizations of DOSAAF and educational institutions of the system for professional-technical education. Youths who have reached their 17th year are drawn to the training. Instruction is conducted without separation from production. Trainees are granted leave with a duration of 7-15 working days with preservation of their mean wages for their primary place of work for the time to take examinations. In rural areas, instruction may take place with separation from work. In these cases, the place of work and position are preserved for conscripts for the entire training period, including travel time to the place of instruction and return if it is connected with leaving the place of permanent residence, and they are paid 50 percent of the mean wage for the place of work. Expenses for the renting of housing and the cost of travel to the place of training and return are paid to the trainees by the kolkhozes, enterprises, and organizations in which they permanently work.

The conscripts' attendance at lessons is mandatory.

After the announcement of the Soviet Defense Minister's order concerning call-up, each conscript is required to report to his call-up sector. The exact times for reporting are determined by the orders of rayon (city) commissars and are announced in personal call-up papers which are sent out by the military commissariats.

Leaders of enterprises, institutions, organizations, kolkhozes, and educational institutions are required to release conscripts from work (training) for the time necessary for call-up, recall conscripts from business trips, and ensure their timely appearance at the recruiting station. For the time of call-up workers, employees, kolkhoz farmers, and pupils are granted leave with the retention of their average wage or stipend (if it is paid). In each individual case release from work on the call of the military commissariat or military-registration agency with the retention of the average wage (stipend) should not exceed three days in a row.

When being sent for dispensary, out-patient, or clinical examination the place of work or training, job, and average wage (stipend if it is paid) for the place of work (instruction) is retained for the conscripts for the entire time that they are in the medical institution and while en route to the place of examination and return.

When accommodated for in-patient treatment a sick-leave certificate is issued to obtain a social security allowance on a universal basis.

Upon release from work those called up for active military service are paid compensation for unused leave and severance pay: for workers and employees--two weeks average wage; for kolkhoz farmers--on kolkhozes which use monetary payment for labor--half the average monthly earnings which have been entered; on kolkhozes which employ payment by work days--half the average monthly earnings entered on the basis of the number of work days worked and the planned estimate of the work day; students of higher educational institutions, pupils of secondary special educational institutions and schools of all types, and young specialists who have not begun to work in connection with call-up to the army--half a monthly stipend from the resources of the educational institutions.

Males who have reached their 18th birthday are called up for military service. Military educational institutions accept 17-year-old youths or those who will be 17 years of age in the year of entry for training. Officer candidates of military schools are considered to be on active military service and enjoy all privileges established by legislation for servicemen called up for active military service and their families. Persons permitted to take entrance examinations are granted leave to report to the military educational institution and take the examinations. Travel to the military school and back is paid by the state. Those accepted in the military-educational institution as well as those called up for active military service are paid severance pay.

Servicemen enjoy complete rights and bear all responsibilities of Soviet citizens. Their rights and responsibilities are established by the law of the Soviet Union, "On the Universal Military Obligation," and military regulations on the basis of conditions of military service.

Dwelling space is preserved for servicemen on active, conscript military service and they cannot be dropped from priority lists for obtaining dwelling space. Excess dwelling space which has been formed as a result of the call-up of a family member for active military service is paid at a single rate during the entire time that he is on active service and for six months from the date of release to the reserve. Departmental dwelling space received in connection with the conscript's labor agreement is preserved for the families of servicemen. These families cannot be moved in accordance with the decision of a court without offering them other dwelling space. Time of service in the Soviet Armed Forces is counted in the total length of work and in his continuous length of work under the condition where the break between the date of release from military service and arrival for work does not exceed three months (and for valid reasons, even more than this period) not considering travel time to the permanent place of residence.

This procedure is also extended to those who did not work for hire prior to military service. For persons who were members of a trade union prior to call-up for military service, the time of service is credited to time of trade union membership.

For servicemen who are called up for active military service from educational institutions, upon release to the reserve the right is preserved to be enrolled to continue instruction in the same educational institution and in the same course with the designation of a stipend from the date of restoration until the results of the next examination session.

Letters of active duty soldiers, seamen, sergeants, and petty officers which are dispatched by the troop unit are forwarded free of charge. Letters addressed to them at their place of service are also forwarded free of charge.

Servicemen who have become disabled as a result of a wound, contusion, mutilation, or sickness received in the defense of the Soviet Union or when performing other duties of military service enjoy the right to a state disability pension.

Wives of active-duty servicemen should be employed no later than a month from the date of the appeal with such a request. Within the same period their children should be sent to nurseries and kindergartens regardless of their departmental affiliation.

Ispolkoms and Councils of Peoples' Deputies are required to display concern for the families of servicemen and to undertake measures for the strict observance of legislation in effect concerning privileges for these families.

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6367

CSO: 1801/086

ARMED FORCES

FASHION OF WEARING CROSSES CRITICIZED

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 20, Oct 83 (signed to press 28 Sep 83) p 45

[Article by Ye. Sergiyenko: "A Small Cross on the Neck"]

[Text] I have wanted to ask a question for a long time, but did not know whom to ask. Even prior to being called up for military service I noticed that some of my comrades wear small crosses. They believed that this is pretty and stylish. I did not agree with them and thought that such a fashion cannot exist in our time. But nevertheless, I would like to learn about this in greater detail. Am I correct?

Private Kuznetsov

The soldier's question is not simple. And most likely the answer will be of interest to many of our readers, military and civilian.

We turned with Private Kuznetsov's letter to the editors of the popular journal NAUKA I RELIGIYA [Science and Religion]. Journalist Ye. Sergiyenko answers the soldier.

This fashion has decreased but once in a while you meet a young person with a small plastic or metal cross. The cross wearer is usually dishevelled and his shirt is unbuttoned so that everyone can see the ornament. His step is straggling and his glance is impudent--to give himself an air of bravery: look, he says, what I like and what I am wearing.

Ah, a thoughtless, frivolous mode! This French word comes from the Latin "modus," which means "measure" or "value." Most often mode or fashion is manifested in clothing. Any ornament, as is known, serves as an addition to it, an accentuating and sometimes even a necessary feature. For example, a bow tie is supposed to be worn with a dinner jacket, and a regular necktie goes with a regular suit. A lady who owns a small cross puts it on with a specific dress or blouse. She turns in front of a mirror and notes with pleasure: of course it is becoming. Who has not found gold ornaments becoming at some time?

But neither a well-dressed lady cross wearer nor a male non-Christian who is wearing a cross has any idea that they are imitating an ignorant and blasphemous

fashion. The cross was and remains an emblem of Christianity and a religious symbol. Of any shape and of any material, it personifies the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. No references to fashion can change the true meaning of the symbol. To make an ornament or trinket out of it is sacrilege, and wearing it as a Christian emblem is equivalent to acknowledging oneself to being a Christian and even propagandizing religion. This tribute to religion can be viewed from just such a standpoint which is unexpected for the cross wearer. "Nothing of the kind, I do not believe in God," objects the wearer of the religious attribute. "Neither in God nor in the devil!"

Meanwhile, religious followers, both ours and foreign, note that, as they say, in recent years religion has increased in the Soviet Union. Of course, they do not believe this themselves because the majority of them understand fashion perfectly but use the whim of fashion for propaganda purposes.

An illusory faith in God is foreign to Soviet people. However, the Soviet constitution protects believers against any compulsion whatsoever. The confession of any religion is the personal matter of each one.

But a person of draft age should be able to determine the mode, that is, the measure and meaning of one or another craze independently and should not copy thoughtlessly a "standard," for example, from the cover of a foreign journal, and should not "bite" at something exotic.

We admit that frequently our Soviet screen is also guilty of making crosses fashionable.

We hear the loud singing of canticles from the motion picture screen which are not at all required and we see in films dazzlingly sumptuous church decorations and the sparkling of domes. We admire handsome men who are duelling with swords with a cross worn next to the skin on a courageously exposed chest.

By the way, orthodox Christians wore the cross on the neck, hiding it from strange eyes, under the shirt, and on the body, and that is why it was called "worn next to the skin." And it hung over the clothing only on persons having a spiritual title and on monks and was called "breast," that is, worn "on the breast" and this means, on the chest. This circumstance is precisely omitted by cross wearers due to their lack of education.

Orthodox exotics in a motion picture are only part of the trouble. They show olden times and pre-revolutionary Russia, one of whose pillars was the orthodox religion. But when a famous female singer appears on the television screen with a cross on her neck, the innocent ornament on a very thin chain seems to signify subscribing to this fashion. And it sparked in millions of copies on girlish necks. Fashionable, and that is all that counts.

The cross has become an object of the Christian faith and its cult because even long before Christianity it was a symbol of slavery, coercion, and humiliation. In the Tret'yakovskiy gallery there is the picture by F. Bronnikov, "Dealing with Slaves who Rose Up." Against the background of a dark, stormy sky stretches a long row of poles with crossbeams, and a person is crucified on each one. The Roman legions dealt with the Spartacus uprising in this way.

The word "cross" sounded ominous in those times. Crucifixion was not only agonizing execution and prolonged torture, but it was considered a disgraceful death. The Romans themselves were horrified at this execution.

When the first communes of the new religion (future Christianity) arose in the eastern provinces in the second half of the 1st Century, they consisted of slaves who had already lost faith in salvation, the path to which was revolt. It only remained to hope for a better life in another world, beyond the grave, and for the coming of a savior sent down by heaven. The religion of the multinational mass of Roman slaves absorbed the ideas of various religious beliefs and philosophies. But the slaves invented a death for their new God which was just as terrible, disgraceful, and cruel as anyone who rose up in rebellion expected--crucifixion.

The early Christians did not hold the cross sacred; they feared it. The cross became the sign of Christianity only from the 4th Century. It is on temples and on the clothing of clergymen and the faithful wear it. Not one rite takes place without a cross. Each believer knows that this symbol was adopted by the church in memory of the martyrdom of Jesus Christ. This symbol serves the church to instill in the faithful the ideas of humility, submissiveness, patience, and the necessity to undergo suffering as did Jesus Christ and to "bear one's cross" without a murmur.

But however firmly the church took possession of the cross, it was held sacred by various peoples long before Christianity. The image of the cross has been discovered on ancient relics and on coins and vases in the kingdom of the Pharaohs, in Babylon, in India, in New Zealand, and in South America. Worshipping the cross has its roots in those times when man learned to obtain fire. Pieces of wood put together in the shape of a cross were a tool for the birth of fire which primitive people worshipped.

After three centuries of persecution, Christianity was adopted by the propertied strata of Roman society: it placed a mighty means of oppression in their hands.

The first crusade against the "infidels" was declared in accordance with the decision of the Clermont Council in 1096. Moslems were called "infidels," and Palestine was called the "Holy Land." This, so to say, was the formal task--to seize the main holy item of Christianity--the "holy sepulchre." The essence of the matter was different--grandiose military-colonial operations of the West European feudal lords in the Near East--in Syria and Palestine and in North Africa--to exterminate and enslave the peaceful Moslem population.

In the Middle Ages the church completely subjugated culture, and to protect its property it created a court--the Inquisition. Any scientific problem was considered only through official theological doctrine. Philosophy became the servant of theology. The Inquisition (from the Latin--"investigate")--a judicial-police institution of the Catholic Church--was created in the 13th Century to combat heresies. They judged in secret with the use of torture. The "heretic" was sentenced to burning at the stake. The Spanish Inquisition was especially ferocious. On the Italian conscience is the burning in Rome in the year 1600 in the Campo dei Fiori of Giordano Bruno, an astronomer, thinker, and fighter against religion and scholasticism.

And Joan of Arc? A peasant girl who led the struggle of the French people against the English aggressors was burned at the stake in 1431 also in the name of God under the symbol of the cross. A church court in Rouen accused the patriot of heresy and witchcraft.

The era when, at the end of the 15th Century, the Spanish adventurers set out for America after its discovery is called the "Conquest." The "Conquistadors" ("conquerors") exterminated many indigenous populations. Their actions were directed and illuminated by the Catholic Church. Indians were murdered and burned at the stake as heretics who did not want to accept Christianity....

Such is a brief history of the symbol of the Christian religion. Let those who want to put on the "fashionable" cross and those who are still submissive to the illusory faith ponder over this.

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6367

CSO: 1801/086

ARMED FORCES

INDEX OF ARTICLES IN VOYENNY VESTNIK, 1983

Moscow VOYENNY VESTNIK in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 28 Nov 83)
p 1

[Text] Index

ISSUE

LEAD ARTICLES, EDITORIALS AND PROPAGANDISTIC ARTICLES

Leninist Course	1
I. SKORODUMOV -- The Commander-Organizer of Combat Training	1
Army of Brotherhood and Friendship Among Peoples	2
Company Sergeants	2
Ye. BELOV -- The Central Problem of the Decade. How it is Being Solved	2
M. POPKOV -- Ever Vivid and Revolutionary Training	3
Student Field Training	3
V. MERIMSKIY -- Commanding Subunits in Battle	4
N. MAL'TSEV -- Founder of Scientific Communism	4
Mountain Troop Training	5
There is a Man Behind Every Letter	5
Coordination Among Small Subunits	6
Company Commander	6
Ye. BELOV -- The Country's Agro-Industrial Complex	6
B. UTKIN -- To Improve Troop Education	7
V. SEMIN -- Party of Revolutionary Action	7
Night Troop Training	8
For Effective Ideological Work	8
Reports and Elections of Party Organs	9
To Ably Force Water Obstacles	9
Vigilance-A Soldier's Weapon	10
To Improve Troop Protection	10
V. BALASHOV -- Broad Rights, High Responsibility	10
V. MERIMSKIY -- An Officer's Methodology Training	11
V. PETROV -- To New Heights of Combat Readiness	12
M. ZAYTSEV -- Components of Success	12

DECISIONS OF THE 26TH CPSU PARTY CONGRESS -- BEING IMPLEMENTED

A. MAKUKHIN -- Horizons of Power Engineering	3
--	---

G. STEFANOVSKIY -- In the Spirit of Constant Vigilance and Combat Readiness	5
G. KUCHER -- Conserve the People's Property	8
V. DAVYDOV -- The Commander and Moral Education of the Soldiers	9
V. BYSTROV -- Study and Learn Leninism	10
I. NOZDRACHEV -- The Political Nucleus of the Military Collective	11
G. Stefanovskiy -- Communist-Political Warrior of the Party	12

Problems of Combat Training

S. AGANOV -- Improve the Level of Engineer Training	1
B. PALYANITSA -- Physical Training of the Soldier	9

PEOPLE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, REFLECTIONS

N. LYASHCHENKO -- Penetrating the Blockade	1
A. KOSHETKOV -- Mass Accomplishment of the People	1
A. BRZHEZINSKIY -- Bautsen Remembers	2
V. KOVALEV -- Iron Man	2
I. DYNIN -- Height of Courage	2
I. PAVLOVSKIY -- Stability in the Defense	3
N. OSTAPENKO -- Artillerymen-Malozemel'tsy	3
V. KABANOV -- Assault the Heights	3
S. PETROV -- Heroes in One Family	5
P. ZHILIN -- Great Victory	6
Arc of Fire ("Round Table" Meeting of Participants in the Great Battle).	7
K. KARAPETYAN -- The Music of Victory	8
P. BATITSKIY -- Strategic Surprise	9
S. CHUMARIN, G. ANDREYEV -- At the Bukrinskiy Bridgehead	9
B. MONASTYRSKIY -- Example of a Division Commander	9
Ya. SAMOYLENKO -- Strikes of the Winged Infantry	10
I. BASHKIROV -- Firing Runs	10
D. DELYUSHENKO -- The Liberation of Donbass	12

THEMATIC SELECTIONS

The Experience of Advanced Workers -- Into Practical Training

I. SEMERIKOV, A. CHULANOV -- A Battalion Attacks at Night	3
N. NAIDIN -- Qualification Firing	3
Yu. BASENKO -- Combat Vehicle Driving in Mountains	3
V. STARCHENKOV -- In the Interests of Close Combat	3
V. SOROKIN, V. APAKIDZE -- Drill Training Examination	3

ON AFGHAN SOIL

Yu. KONDRATYUK -- On Combat Tactics	4
V. SHCHEKUCHIKHIN -- In Ambush	4
D. GORB -- The BMD in Mountains	4
A. KRYUKOV -- In the Interests of Reliable Control	4
V. TOKMAKOV -- The Peasants Say Thank You	4

V. MIKORA -- Inculcating Courage	4
I. DYNIN -- Roads of Friendship	4

VOYENNNY VESTNIK at the Spring Examinations

A. CHULANOV, V. BORODAVKIN, Ye. DUBROVSKIY, V. TIMOKHIN, A. YAKOVENKO -- Selected Articles	6
---	---

From Combat Training Experience in the Southern Group of Forces

K. KOCHETOV -- The Test Is In the Field	9
N. SHEVKUN -- Effectiveness is Achieved Through Creative Work	9
V. KONSTANTINOV -- Shift to the Defense	9
V. ISAY -- The Skill of the Specialists is Growing	9

Mountain Combat

N. FEDCHUN -- A Fixed Pattern is Harmful	12
Yu. LABYRIN -- Reconnaissance and Flank Protection	12
V. DAVID -- The Role of Maneuver	12
V. BARLIT -- The Organizer of Fire Destruction	12
V. KHARITONOV -- Battle Against Helicopters	12
D. LUTSISHIN -- Engineer Security	12
S. YEREMIN -- The RPG in Mountain Combat	12
L. BEGOV -- The Battalion Rear in Combat	12

VOYENNNY VESTNIK at the Final Inspection

A. SHUL'GIN -- After Two Inspections	12
V. LUKASHEV -- On the Parade Ground and in Everyday Life	12
S. KRAVCHENKO -- Artillerymen in the Polar Region	12
V. TIMOKHIN -- The Evaluation Could Have Been Excellent	12
I. SKORODUMOV -- They Trained Seldom and Fired Often, But Were Not Accurate	12
S. SHEVCHENKO -- He Defines Discipline	12
Yu. MORENKO -- The Bridge Builders Report	12
I. MUKHIN -- With Varying Results	12

For Advanced Methods

A. GLALAKH -- Considering the Students' Category	1
I. ZINOV'YEV, Ye. PETROV -- In Our Department	1
A. DEMIDOV, A. SKORODUMOV, N. NEPOMNYASHCHIY -- Subunit Commanders Speak	2
V. KULIKOV -- Ways of Improving Students' Practical Training	3
F. KAKUZIN, G. DVORNIKOV -- Comprehensive Monitoring of Learning	3
K. VYUNSH -- Merely the First Steps	3
F. MICHUK -- A Method of Teaching About Dosimeters	3
A. UL'YANOV -- On the Eve of Standing Guard Duty	4
N. NESHCHADIM -- An Important Task	5
O. TELIKH -- According to Broader Criteria	5

V. MARTYNOV -- We Study, Analyze and Put in Practice	6
V. KALININ -- A Valuable Initiative	6
A. MELIKHOV -- Problem Oriented Training of Students	7
A. KOZUB -- Sound Knowledge, Firm Skills	8
Ye. VOTINOV -- Firing ATGMs at Water Targets	9
F. YARMOLENKO, Yu. FARTUSHNYY -- We Improve the Training Process	10
A. KUZ'MIN -- What Brings Success	10
M. DERNOVOY -- How to Make a Training Map	11
A. BEDRIN -- To Improve Training Effectiveness	11
V. UL'YANOV -- Firing On the March	11
G. SIROSH, V. BYKOV, M. GOROKHOV -- To Improve Student Training	11
A. BILENKO -- A Student Conducts the Exercise	12

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMBINED ARMS COMBAT

V. KRAVCHENKO -- Penetrating the Enemy Defense	1
Yu. CHUMAKOV -- Swiftess and Continuity of the Offensive	1
I. SEMERIKOV, A. CHULANOV -- The Battalion Attacks at Night	3
Yu. KORSAKOV -- In the Guard Detachment	4
Ya. KUPTSEVICH -- High Effectiveness of Competition	5
P. KUNITSKIY -- Tactical Training Critique and Evaluation	6
V. ROSHCHUPKIN -- Steadfastness	6
L. MARZLYAK -- Defense in the City	7
P. NALIBAYCHUK -- A Platoon in Ambush	8
V. RUDOY -- The Best Help to a Neighbor -- Help Them Progress	9
V. KONSTANTINOV -- Shift to the Defense	9
V. RUDOY -- Combining Skill and Will	10
B. SKRIPNICHENKO -- Across the Sea to the Enemy Rear	11

Discussion of the Article: "Swiftess and Continuity of the Offensive"

Ye. FROLOV, V. KRYUKOV, V. KOVROV -- Battalion Attacks from the March ..	2
A. GAL'TSEV -- The Second Echelon is Committed	2
V. GORDEYEV -- Reduce Pause In Shifting From Day to Night Operations ...	4
K. BABITSKIY, V. MEL'NICHUK -- And From Night to Day	4
V. DANIL'CHENKO -- In the Flanking Detachment	5
V. LEYSHEV -- In Coordination With Tactical Air Assaults	7
F. SVERDLOV, V. NEMETOV, A. PENZYAKOV -- Maneuver: The Key to Victory .	8
A. GYSEV -- The Motorized Rifle Battalion Makes A Forced River Crossing.	9
P. SIMCHENKOV, V. SAVKIN -- Achieving Swiftess During the War Years ...	10
S. IVANOV -- Military Cunning	11
A. SAGAKYANTS, N. KOLOMYICHENKO -- Reconnaissance and Offensive Tempos .	11
D. DRAGUNSKIY -- Competent Use of Time	12
Officer's Note	1,2,3,4,5,11,12
Tactical Task	3,6,10
Critique of Tactical Task Decisions	2,8,9

AIRBORNE TROOPS

N. GORYACHEV -- The Ranks of Qualified Specialists Grow	1
V. DREGVAL' -- Rationalizers in Creative Quest	1

A. TARATUTO -- So That Control is Reliable	2
Yu. DANSHIN -- In the "Enemy" Rear	2
V. LARIN -- Preparing the BMD for Air Drop	3
Yu. PROTASOV -- From an Afghan Notebook	5
F. PAVLYUK -- Combat in a Built Up Area	6
A. TRUNIN -- Paratroopers: High Qualities of Will	7
Ya. SAMOYLENKO -- Air Assault Raid	8
G. KADILOV -- To Get To Know One's Subordinates	9
V. IVONIN -- Everyone is Responsible	10
A. SAMOYLOV -- A Battalion Operates in the Mountains	10
V. LYSENKO -- A Battalion Repulses an Attack From the Air	11
V. BAZEL'CHUK -- In the Movement Security Detachment	11
R. BAYKEYEV -- The Forward Detachment Conducts a Forced River Crossing ..	12

TRAINING AND MILITARY EDUCATION

V. DOTSENKO -- Instructor-Methodological Work	1
V. STOYAN -- Group Exercise	1
M. TOMCHUK -- Forever in the Order of Battle	1
VOYENNNYY VESTNIK Questionnaire: "Psychological Steadfastness"	1
M. NESTEROV -- These Difficult First Steps	1
V. LUK'YANCHUK -- We Teach Students to Operate at Night	1
Yu. POLOZHENTSEV, A. ZHURAVSKIY, P. KOSAREV, N. KHROMOV -- Publicizing Competition	2
V. MIKORA -- With the Help of the Collective	3
S. MIKHAYLYUK -- For Coming Into One's Own	3
N. SIRENKO -- Party Political Work On Guard Duty	3
V. FALETSKIY -- Reserve of Effectiveness in Ideological and Educational Work	4
B. MAN'KO, A. TIKHONOV, I. STOLYARUK, V. OMEL'CHENKO -- The Effect of Comparability	4
V. TRET'YAKOV -- Comprehensive Subsidiary	4
V. STREL'TSOV -- Everyday Concerns	5
A. SHUGAYEV -- High Speed Driving	5
N. REMEZ -- The Field Teaches and Tests	5
V. DEMIN -- Duties Correspond	5
Yu. ABASHIN -- Various Forms	6
V. POZHIDAYEV -- A Model is Nearby	6
K. SEBELEV -- The Experience of the Exceptional - To All	6
S. MUTSYNOV -- Relations With Subordinates	6
Yu. YEZIKOV -- Commander's Training in the Company	6
G. DMITRIYEV -- Although the Company is a Leader	6
M. KHOMULO -- For High Quality Marksmanship Training	7
S. TEMIR'YEV -- School of Internationalism, School of Discipline	7
V. PROFATILOV -- Decisive Link	7
Kh. AMBARYAN -- 40 Years of the Suvorov Schools	8
M. IVANOV -- Daily and Purposefully	8
L. CHERNOUS'KO -- Stand Up to the Enemy Stronger Than Iron	8
A. KHOZYAYCHIKOV -- Party Political Work During Assault Water Crossing ..	9
R. ABLYAZOV -- Training of Guards	9
S. TREFILOV -- Commander's Training-The Key to Success	9

V. SEMENTKOVSKIY -- To See A Man	10
V. APAKIDZE -- Instructor's Methodological Work During Drill Training ...	10
V. RUZANOV -- Competition and Public Duty	11
S. IVANOVSKIY -- When Ranking is Not Esteemed	11
V. VASILENOK -- Marching To Attention and At Ease	11
A. DEDUSHEV -- Soldiers' Atheistic Education	12
I. KOS'YANENKO -- Manual of Arms at the Halt	12

Discussion of the Questionnaire "Psychological Steadfastness"

V. STARIKOV -- Along A Mountain Ravine	2
I. ZONOV -- In Search	2
V. ULANOV -- In A Military Spirit	2
V. TRYAKIN -- Teaching Love For Weapons and Equipment	2
S. MIRZOYAN, S. SHEVCHENKO, G. SYROV, V. SHNYAKIN, V. LARIONOV, I. POMEL'NIKOV, Ye. SLESAREV -- To Win in Battle	3
N. KORF -- Aptitude for the Military Profession	4
A. PROKHOROV, A. ROSLYAKOV, V. YEVDOKIMOV, A. AKIN'SHIN, S. GRISHIN, N. LYANTSEV, I. ARENDARENKO -- Veterans Speak	5
V. SEREDA -- Under the Watery Depths	6
N. FEDENKO, I. KISELEV, D. GANDER, I. TKACHEV, A. KOROTKIY, V. TURCHIN, Ye. BONDAREV -- Students' Readiness for Military Service	7
R. SHARKAYEV, V. KAPRICHNYY, Ye. KOCHETOV, V. NADTACHEYEV, V. CHILIK, V. PAPIY, I. IVANOV, V. PERISHCH, Yu. TSYGANKOV, A. AKHMATOV, M. GLUKHOV, S. KSENOFONTOV -- We Instill Will and Temper Character ...	8
N. FEDENKO -- In the Interests of Battle	9
V. KRYUKOV -- Will is Tempered in Military Labor	11

In Military Educational Institutions

I. KISELEV -- The Faculty Can Do A Lot	1
A. SLADKOV -- Defects in Commanders' Training	4
Yu. SHUSTOV -- Veterans' Contribution	4
V. FOMICHEV, F. Khabibulin -- Students in a Mountain Training Center ...	5
A. SIDORIVICH, A. KOLOMIYETS -- An Important Stage of Training	8
L. GROZNER -- We Develop Thinking	8
N. BADEYKIN -- Instilling Commanders' Qualities in Students	9
V. KOTYGA, L. SHMATKOV -- We Strengthen Our Ties With the Troops	9
M. PILIPENKO -- Tactical Training in School	10
A. POROKHIN -- In the Interests of Increasing Instructors' Skills	10

ROCKETS AND ARTILLERY

V. KROLENKO -- In Shock Groups	1
S. SVERDLOV -- Artillery Firing Exercises With Students	1
Ye. SITNOV -- Totographic Geodesists Within the ARG [Artillery Reconnaissance Group]	1
V. MORGUN -- Self-Propelled Artillery Battery in the GPZ [Advance Party].	1
A. SAPOZHNIKOV -- Tactical Training of the Artillery Officer	2
A. NOVICHKOV -- Firing With Azimuth Increment of 5.00 or More	2
V. ROMANCHUK -- Providing Light for Firing Anti-Tank Weapons	2

A. VITUSHKIN, V. YEFLEYEV -- Using the EKVM [Electronic Keyboard Computer]	2
V. IVANOV -- His Life's Work	2
V. POGONIN -- Organization of a System of Fire and Engineer Obstacles ...	3
Ya. OGLANOV -- Again On Registration Speed and Accuracy	3
O. KOLESHIK -- Mortarmen Study	3
G. LUTSENKO, N. SKORYNA -- Monitoring Meteorological Information	3
M. MUSATOV -- Comprehensive Exercise With a Firing Battery	4
A. NOVIKOV -- Destroying Moving Sea Targets	4
B. BOKOV -- Forming Fire Control Skills	4
Yu. ANAN'YEV, A. KURENKOV -- Determining Concentration Intervals	4
G. STOROZHENKO -- For the Crew on the Cross Observation Post	4
Yu. KOLOSKOV -- Use of Artillery in Mountains	5
E. VOLKOV -- Optical Reconnaissance in Mountain and Taiga Terrain	5
A. FROLOV -- In the Anti-Tank Reserve	5
A. BEKŞLER -- Always With the Tanks and Infantry	5
S. KRAVCHENKO -- When Coordination is Forgotten	5
V. PRIVALOV -- Reconnaissance in the Artillery Battalion	6
M. BELOKUR -- Correction for Lateral Target Displacement	6
N. MOGILEV -- With the Use of an Artillery Slide Rule	6
V. SMIRNOV -- Victory and Experience are Always Near	7
V. SERGIYENKO -- Observed Target Ranging	7
O. MAKOVEY -- Central Artillery [Depot]	7
I. SHIMANCHUK -- Comprehensive Firing Battery Examination	8
A. KHIL'GORA, S. KRAVCHENKO -- Guarantee of Success	8
V. GALUSHIN, V. VOLOKHOV -- With the Aid of a Microcalculator	8
A. FEDORCHUK -- Attachment for Training Sound Ranging Surveyors	8
A. NESTERENKO -- Destroying the Tolkachevskiy Center of Resistance	8
G. VASILISHIN -- Direct Laying During the Artillery Preparation for the Attack	9
V. AVDEYEV -- Supporting A Forced Crossing	9
M. KARABANOV, Yu. ANAN'YEV -- Considering Air Temperature Deviations During Firing in Mountains	9
I. YEPIFANOV -- Mountain Training	10
A. BOLDYREV -- Discipline in Field Exercises	10
A. KOZAK -- In an Excellent Subunit	10
P. ZAKHAROV -- Sight Calibration	10
V. MIRYANIN -- Mortars of the Armies of the Capitalist States	10
P. KUZNETSOV -- Arrangement of Firing Platoons in Comprehensive Exercise.	11
Ya. SKROBOV -- Battle With Enemy Artillery	11
G. DOVZHENKO, A. KACHURENKO, K. OGER -- We Train Junior Commanders	11
S. TERESHKOV -- From the March to the Firing Position	11
A. LECKIY -- Learn to Control Oneself	11
V. KOROLENKO -- In Combined Training Groups	12
V. KURAPOV -- Unit Artillery Firing Competition	12
V. GUBERNATOROV -- We Prepare for Joint Operations	12

TROOPS OF PVO [AIR DEFENSE]

Yu. CHESNOKOV -- Tactical and Firing Training of Troop PVO	1
A. ANIKEYENKO -- Aviation Operations Over the Battlefield	2

A. KORYT'KO -- Air Defense During Commitment of the Second Echelon	3
M. KIREYEV -- A Method of Determining the Zones of Visibility of Low Flying Targets	3
N. FISYUN -- Analog-Digital Transformer	4
V. MIKHAYLOV -- Selection of Future Operators	5
Yu. DYADYUN -- Air Defense Subunits in Defense at Night	6
N. SHARAPOV -- Air Defense of a Battalion During Combat in the Enemy Rear Area	7
A. KANTOR -- Crew Coordination: A Military Training Indicator	7
A. ABRAMENKO -- Objective Control of Every Shot	8
V. MIKHAYLOV -- Forcing a Water Obstacle	9
V. BOCHKAREV -- Detecting Low Flying Targets	10
S. BULYZHKIN -- On the Eve of a Tactical Exercise With Firing	11
A. CHEPENKO -- In the Interests of Improving the Skill of Anti-Aircraft Gunners	12

FIRE AND WEAPONS

V. NIKANDROV -- In the Interests of Firing Training	1
O. BEDULA -- Promptly Sum Up Training Results	2
V. VOLOSHIN, Ya. PYLDMAA, Ye. KUSHNIRENKO, M. LEVENETS, I. PANASINA -- If an Electro-Optical Firing Simulator is Used	2
V. ZARYA -- A Tank Platoon Attacks	4
V. GASHCHENKO -- Preparing Armored Personnel Carrier Weapons for Firing .	4
V. STADNIK, V. POTAPOV, B. GADALIN -- Checking Readiness for Mountain Exercises	5
Yu. Semenov, I. Sobran -- Determining Tank Engagement Zones in Mountains.	6
I. CHERNYATIN -- Compete During Each Exercise	7
V. DOBROV -- Tankers Learn to Fire at Night	8
L. KOLOKOL'NIKOV -- To Destroy Targets More Quickly	8
Selected Articles: High Effectiveness of Firing Training	9
I. KOLOTUSHKIN -- The BMP in the System of Anti-Tank Fire	10
V. DURDENKO -- Firing Training Competition	10
I. GORDEYENKOV -- On the Targets With a Fragmentation Grenade	11
V. UL'YANOV -- Firing From the March	11
B. GADALIN -- A Tank Battalion Attacks	12

ENGINEER TROOPS

V. KELLSH -- Reestablishing Routes in the Mountains	2
B. ZHIRNOV -- Erecting A Floating Bridge	3
N. KAYNAR, V. PANOV -- The Obstacle Clearing Group in Offensive Battle ..	4
Yu. TYUL'KOV -- One of the Components of Success	6
P. KICHEV -- In Defense at Kursk	7
Yu. MORENKO -- Building a Bridge	7
S. KORNEV -- Engineer Reconnaissance of a River at Night	8
I. BEVZ -- He Decided and Provided	9
B. MATVIYENKO, M. KARAGODIN -- A Tank Batalion Overcomes Obstacles	10
N. ZAVITCHEVICH, V. SOKOLOV -- Combat Engineers on Helicopters	12

COMMUNICATIONS TROOPS

P. BORISOV -- We Perfect our Command and Control Skill	1
A. YATSENKO -- I Learn While Training Subordinates	3
Yu. CHURKIN -- Learn How to Win	9
M. PILIPENKO -- Tactical Training in School	10
V. FILIMONOV -- For Well-Trained Communicators	11
V. KREPKIY -- Train Your Assistants	11

CHEMICAL TROOPS

V. TERESHKO -- Organizing a Battalion March	1
V. NOVIKOV -- Flame-Thrower Operators Operate in Mountains	2
I. GRABOVOY -- Defense Against Incendiary Weapons	3
F. MICHUK -- Methodology for Studying Dosimetric Instruments	3
M. ZAYTSEV, M. SAVEKO -- Protection During Operations in Forested and Swampy Terrain	4
V. ZMUSHKO -- CW Reconnaissance Apparatus	4
Yu. KUDACHKIN, A. POLYAK -- Rapidity in Operations and Troop Protection .	5
A. MRAKIN -- Competition in Field Training	5
B. SHUBIN -- In Extensive Contaminated Areas	6
V. MESHKOV -- A Training Day in the Military Department	7
I. MUKHIN -- Methodological Errors	7
B. TKACH, O. ORESHIN -- Reestablishing Combat Effectiveness of Defending Subunits	8
A. P'YAVKA -- Two Reasons	8
B. ALEKSEYEV -- Radiation and Chemical Reconnaissance During An Assault River Crossing	9
V. ISHCENKO -- Smoke Camouflage in Mountains	10
A. SAVCHENOV -- From Experience in Training and Educating Sergeants	11
N. PRISHCHEPOV -- Smoke Camouflage Effectiveness	11
N. TABENKOV -- Training Flame-Thrower Shot	12
N. KURLENIN -- Method for Cleaning Up Training Fields	12

AMONG OUR FRIENDS

E. YASTRZHEMSKI -- Tactical Training in Polish Subunits	1
I. KHODULOV -- Special Features of an Offensive by Subunits in Winter ...	2
M. ZIKA -- We Are Improving the Training Base	4
I. SHILLING -- The Tank Battalion Separated From the Main Forces	6
E. MOL'CHIK -- Polish Peoples Army-Serving the Homeland and Socialism ...	10
A. BELOUSOV -- Back Then in 1943, at Lenino	10

IN FOREIGN ARMIES

N. NIKITIN -- A Source of Military Danger	1
V. TSATSURIN -- Turkey's Ground Forces	2
N. GLAZUNOV -- Bundeswehr Territorial Ground Forces	3
A. PLOTNIKOV -- Troop Air Defense Surveillance and Target Indication Radars	4
S. PRYADILOV -- Antiaircraft-Antitank Missile System	5

Yu. CHUPROV -- A Motorized Infantry Battalion Operations in Mountains ...	5
Yu. KOROLEV, V. SHAMSHUROV -- Engineer Support of Defense in Mountains ..	5
V. DOTSENKO -- The Falklands Assault Landing Operation	6
V. LUK'YANOV -- Turkish Army Infantry Company in Main Types of Battle ...	7
Yu. KOROLEV, V. SHAMSHUROV -- To Support the Defense	8
V. MALIKOV, K. DOLGOV -- Main Battle Tanks of NATO Countries	8
I. KOSIKOV -- Mine Danger in Rivers	9
A. SERGEYEV -- Reconnaissance in NATO Armies	11
A. MANACHINSKIY, Yu. PETROV -- Self-Propelled Anti-Aircraft Guns	11
S. CHUPROV -- In the Spirit of Revenge	12

CRITIQUES AND REVIEWS

S. ISACHENKO -- USSR DOSAAF Publishing House: To the Military Reader ...	1
A. RODNIKOV -- On the Basis of Troop Experience	2
V. MASAYEV -- A Textbook That Everyone Needs	3
V. ZHUKOV -- I Would Like it Clarified	3
A. DEGTYAREV -- Basis for a Military Alliance	5
I. SVIRIDOV -- The Operation and Battle	6
A. DUNIN -- Soldiers' Rituals	8
L. PLYAKHTUR -- The U. S. - Bulwark of Militarism	8
I. PAVLOVSKIY -- Military Encyclopedic Dictionary	10
G. PETROVSKIY -- To Improve the Style of Work of Military Cadres	10
I. ARISTOV -- To Unmask Ideological Sabotage Through Argumentation	11
P. KUKUSHKIN -- VOYENIZDAT: To the Military Reader	11
B. KURTOV -- Beacons in a Sea of Books	11
I. SIDEL'NIKOV -- Flagship of the Military Press	12

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ARMED FORCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS: VOYENNNYY VESTNIK NO 12, DECEMBER 1983

Moscow VOYENNNYY VESTNIK in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 28 Nov 83)
p 1

[Text] Contents

V. PETROV -- To New Heights of Combat Readiness..... 2

DECISIONS OF THE 26TH CPSU CONGRESS -- BEING IMPLEMENTED

G. STEFANOVSKIY -- The Communist: Political Warrior of the Party..... 7

PEOPLE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, REFLECTIONS

D. LELYUSHENKO -- Liberation of Donbass..... 12

Sixty Years of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

Flagship of the Military Press..... 17

With the Initiators of Competition

M. ZAYTSEV -- Components of Success 19

VOYENNNYY VESTNIK at the Final Inspection

A. SHUL'GIN -- After Two Inspections 23

B. LUKASHOV -- On the Parade Ground and in Everyday Life 26

S. KRAVCHENKO -- Artillerymen in the Polar Region 28

V. TIMOKHIN -- The Evaluation Could Have Been Excellent 32

I. SKORODUMOV -- They Trained Seldom and Fired Often, But Were Not
Accurate 34

S. SHEVCHENKO -- He Defines Discipline 35

YU. MORENKO -- The Bridge Builders Report 37

I. MUKHIN -- With Varying Results 39

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMBINED ARMS BATTLE

D. DRAGUNSKIY -- The Authoritative Command of the Age 41

An Officer's Note. Password and Response 44

N. FEDCHUN, YU. LABYRIN, V. DAVID, V. BARLIT, V. KHARITONOV, D. LUTSISHIN, S. YEREMIN, L. BEGOV -- Combat in the Mountains	45
Help to the Platoon Commander In Firing Training	
I. KOS'YANENKO -- Manual of Arms At the Halt	56
AIRBORNE FORCES	
R. BAYKEYEV -- Forward Detachment Conducts Forced River Crossing	58
VDNKh [EXHIBITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY] OF THE USSR -- SCHOOL OF ADVANCED EXPERIENCE	
S. GORYACHEV -- School-Participant in the VDNKh	63
Competition Between Innovators	64
MISSILES AND ARTILLERY	
V. DOROLENKO, A. BONDARENKO -- In Combined Training Groups	65
N. GUBERNATOROV -- We Prepare for Joint Operations	68
V. KURAPOV -- Unit Artillery Firing Competition	71
TROOPS OF AIR DEFENSE	
A. CHEPENKO -- In the Interests of Improving the Skill of Anti-Aircraft Gunners	72
FIRE AND WEAPONS	
B. GADALIN -- A Tank Battalion Attacks	75
SPECIAL TROOPS	
N. ZAVITNEVICH, V. SOKOLOV -- Combat Engineers On Helicopters	80
I. TABENKOV -- Training Flame-Thrower Shot	84
N. KURLENIN -- Method For Cleaning Up Training Fields	86
For Advanced Methods	
A. BILENKO -- A Student Conducts the Exercise	87
IN FOREIGN ARMIES	
S. CHUPROV -- In the Spirit of Revenge	89
Index of Articles Published in VOYENNNYY VESTNIK in 1983	92
Chess	96

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ARMED FORCES

COVER-UP OF PARTY SECRETARY'S DRUNK DRIVING CHARGE INVESTIGATED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Maj V. Svetikov: "Party Life: In the Wake of a Letter: Don't Discredit Yourself"]

[Text] One May night a militia patrol detained a Zhiguli automobile being driven by a person in an inebriated condition. He refused to present documents. Later it turned out that this was a serviceman, Capt 3d Rank D. Dobrovol'skiy.

On the following day Dobrovol'skiy reported what had happened to Maj Yu. Brezhnev, the acting commander. An impartial discussion ensued, but it was not publicized as the deputy commander decided to limit himself to an admonition so as not to "undermine the authority" of the unit party organization secretary. For the second year in a row now Dan Konstantinovich Dobrovol'skiy has been elected secretary and, in the party members' opinion, was coping rather well with his duties.

Soon the unit commander, Capt 2d Rank A. Perov, returned from leave and although the deputy did not report that incident to Arkadiy Ivanovich, he received information about it at once. I ask that attention be paid to the words "at once," since this detail will play an essential part in our narrative. A party meeting at which the performance appraisal on Party Member Dobrovol'skiy was approved also serves as evidence that Perov knew about the incident with the subordinate officer--Dobrovol'skiy's transfer to a new duty station was proposed. At that time the commander asked Dan Konstantinovich directly just what kind of incident occurred with the militia. Dobrovol'skiy explained, and that is where it ended. By the way, neither the question nor the answer got into the minutes. The entry was not made at the suggestion of the political deputy, Capt 3d Rank L. Chernen'kiy. Dan Konstantinovich was not simply given a good recommendation; it was a brilliant one.

Then people again began talking a few months later about that now distant fact. A party meeting was appointed on an emergency basis, with the personal affair of Party Member Dobrovol'skiy and the question of his moral right to head the party collective placed on the agenda. Capt 2d Rank A. Perov and his political deputy insisted that the personal affair of Party Member Yu. Brezhnev

be reviewed simultaneously, in Perov's words, "for concealing an officer's scandalous misdeed." His suggestion found no support among party organization members, however, and moreover the party members kept Dobrovol'skiy as secretary by an overwhelming majority of votes.

On the following day party organization members learned that the meeting allegedly had been declared invalid on instructions of the political department chief for the reason that a party member who committed an infraction could not be a secretary. A new meeting was appointed. The political entity's opinion was of course authoritative and Dobrovol'skiy "turned over his duties." This time the agenda also included the personal affair of Party Member Brezhnev.

Just what served as the reason for that? Why did they "recall" it suddenly a month after the infraction was committed, although the fact itself was known at once, as already has been emphasized?

...Maj Yu. Brezhnev arrived in this small separate unit in May of last year. Businesslike, vigorous and sociable, he soon became a reliable assistant to Capt 2d Rank Perov. They had no differences between them and any problem was resolved through common efforts. Their families also became friends and often spent evenings together. Moreover, their children are the same age and study in the same class. "It is pleasant to work with you, Arkadiy Ivanovich," the deputy told the commander more than once, and the commander would emphasize: "My deputy is reliable..."

Such relationships also were not slow in telling on the atmosphere in the unit. The fact is that previously this collective had been in a fever. Complaints would go to various echelons and inspectors would come and look into matters. Then things improved. "Finally!" said responsible workers of one of the central directorates of the Navy in Moscow, sighing with relief. As it turned out, the relief was not for long.

In the fall of last year Capt 1st Rank O. Smirnov arrived here from the directorate for a report-election party meeting. After the meeting he received people on personal matters. Maj Brezhnev was passing on in rank and asked about the prospects for career growth. The answer given was to the effect that Capt 2d Rank Perov apparently soon would go into the reserve and the deputy would take his place.

Well, everything in life takes its course. The time to leave combat formation was arriving imperceptibly. Such is the relay and such is the logic of life.

But it turns out that at times it is taken painfully. I will permit myself a digression from the facts cited above. From time to time complaints come to the editors in which a particular officer expresses offense over the fact that he is being offered a release to the reserve. No, it is all on a legal basis for length of service, but... And various arguments are given here. Either the person wants to marry off his daughter and then it will be possible to go into the reserve. Or he wants to wait until a festive date, with only a half-year remaining. Or indignation is expressed that "they suggested release to

the reserve," while a person who has the very same number of years is still serving...

There are many places where this can happen and with many people, but there are grounds here to make oneself nervous and disturb others. And I would like to say honestly that there is something unhealthy in such situations and complaints, as if something unknown and trivial was uncovered in a person and as if a person who is composed, courageous and goal-oriented, who has lived all his life in good stead, begins to discredit himself and forego his behavior.

There can be no direct analogy with the real state of affairs of the episode described here. As I know, there was no official question of Arkadiy Ivanovich's release to the reserve, but it turned out that certain conjectural words were enough for forces, perhaps unknown even to him, to awaken in his soul.

Just what happened further? We learned this from a letter to the editors of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA from Capt 3d Rank Dobrovol'skiy. While not whitewashing himself in any way and reproaching himself for his infraction, he writes directly that Perov began to persecute his deputy, expose him for professional unpreparedness and report his failure to Moscow. The letter's author cited examples to prove his words. While working in the unit in response to this letter I became convinced that all the facts mentioned actually took place. Moreover, many others were uncovered.

In addition to other missions the unit's personnel guard military facilities. Maj Brezhnev considered it his duty to make extra checks on how the guard was performing the assigned mission, but once he was not allowed to enter the facilities. The guard commander frankly said: "Capt 2d Rank Perov forbade this." Perov did not explain his decision in any way, as if saying: Take it as you like.

Another time Maj Brezhnev prepared a draft order for punishing WO [Michman] V. Bornyakov: withholding money because he squandered gasoline. This fact was established by an internal audit commission headed by party member Sr Lt Yu. Leonov. On instructions of Brezhnev, who realized the seriousness of the fact presented by the commission, the check was made twice, but Perov simply rescinded all papers and again no accusations.

Every misdeed by the deputy now was within Arkadiy Ivanovich's sights...

The further it went, the more there was. A web of unhealthy relationships began to envelop the families. First the wives stopped saying hello, then arguments arose between them in view of the entire post. It is understandable how such a thing harms the authority of party member-leaders and the collective's moral atmosphere.

In short, the snowball of unhealthy relations rolled downward, gaining more and more layers. Then Capt 3d Rank Dobrovol'skiy aired the dirty linen, as they say. He reported what was happening through channels. It seems they

understood the situation "above" and promised to delve into everything and take specific steps. Unfortunately, no one looked into the matter and took no steps.

The time has come to return to our question: Why after several months did the incident with Dobrovol'skiy suddenly "surface"? No one disputes the fact itself of the officer's guilt, including he himself. In May, however, it was considered "insignificant," but now it is suddenly "scandalous." The performance appraisal which Perov prepared this time was just the opposite of the one signed only three months before, when Dobrovol'skiy's transfer of duty station was proposed. Now he arose as an extremely negative individual. It was as if he was being punished for "airing the dirty linen."

But not only this. The important factor is that the fact was used to report to the command element once more about Maj Brezhnev's insolvency. Yuriy Fedorovich was being described this time from a moral standpoint, allegedly covering up violators, glossing over deficiencies and striking a bargain with his conscience. Moreover, his personal affairs could not be ignored. Although the proposal concerning the personal affairs was not supported by party members at the meeting, the report went "upward." I recall that on the next day party members were told that the political department declared the meeting invalid. Well, all this is a fabrication. There was no instruction from the political department about the "invalidity of the party meeting and the maturity of the party members." Capt 3d Rank Chernen'kiy resorted to this ruse in carrying out a plan agreed upon earlier with Perov.

In our discussion Arkadiy Ivanovich feared most of all that I would evaluate the facts incorrectly and feared what I thought about his meanness toward Maj Brezhnev. It stands to reason that the majority of people are impressed by consistent nobility in their own egos, but far from all of them have enough strength to admit a betrayal of it.

...It was late when I was leaving the unit and the post was surrounded on all sides by the dense darkness of night. Only at the headquarters did the neon light of a lantern pick out two solitary figures of Capt 2d Rank Perov and Maj Brezhnev. Arkadiy Ivanovich left at once but Yuriy Fedorovich stood for awhile in the light, then strode in the opposite direction.

6904

CSO: 1801/142

ARMED FORCES

OFFICERS IDENTIFIED IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA

[Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 November 1983 Second Edition frontpages a 750-word article by Major of Engineer Troops A. Aleksenko titled "Training Flight Controller" describing, in general terms, a new flight simulator developed by a creative group headed by Aviation Maj Gen V. Gorbatykh, air force chief of staff of the Transcaucasian military district.

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVESDA in Russian 3 December 1983 Second Edition publishes on page 2 under the headline "Disposed to Action" an article by own correspondent Lt Col A. Bedzhanyan which includes a reference to Maj Gen Ye. Mikulchik as "First Deputy Chief of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District Political Directorate."

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 January 1984 First Edition frontpages under the general heading "Our Martial Labor for the Motherland" a feature pegged to the new year which includes a 200-word report titled "In Honor of the Front-Runners" by an unnamed "our correspondent" from the Red Banner Volga Military District noting that a new year meeting at the military district was addressed by Lt Gen N. Stolyarov, the district's first deputy commander; and a 700-word report telegraphed from the Red Banner Far Eastern Military District by correspondent Col A. Zakharenko under the heading "Guarding the Morning" which notes that the correspondent had a talk with Aviation Col Gen A. Zakrevskiy, commander of the district's air forces.

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 January 1984 carries on page 2 a 2,000-word article by Aviation Lt Gen A. Gorninov, identified as aviation commander of the group of Soviet forces in Germany, under the rubric "An Officer's Professional Qualities" and titled "The Pilot's Combat Confidence."

The author describes the qualities needed to make a good pilot and the ways to cultivate these qualities among officers.

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 January 1984 Second Edition frontpages a 100-word Maj P. Yakovlev report from the Red Banner Far Eastern Military District titled "They Took First Place." Dealing with a district competition, the report identifies Lt Gen V. Patrikeyev as the district's chief of staff.

CSO: 1801/173

NAVAL FORCES

CAPTAIN'S SUPERIORITY COMPLEX LEADS TO LOSS OF COMMAND

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by Capt 2d Rank V. Fedorov and Capt Lt S. Ishchenko, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents: "Downfall"]

[Text] Just over a year ago the editors prepared for publication an article on instilling independence and initiative in ship's officers. The author, an experienced navy man used as an example Capt 3d Rank N. Sukhov, commander of an escort ship. The article stated that under his leadership the crew had solved its tasks with an excellent rating during an ocean cruise, and was due back at base any day. Suddenly there was a telephone call asking that the example of Sukhov immediately be removed. Only something unusual could have prompted the author to so act. Something unusual had happened.

He intends to return home late, not from habit or urgent business, but to avoid being alone. His work, if it does not fascinate him as did his commander's duties (can anything possibly compare), then it diverts his mind from heavy thoughts, which apparently he will never be able to control.

At times he is on the verge of despair from knowing that he cannot bring back the past, and that the world in which he had become accustomed to thinking and feeling, and for which seemingly he had been created, was forever removed from him. Only a small fragment remained -- a model of his ship. Each of its lines is painfully familiar to him, and appears even through the dark of night, its ghostly luminescent silhouette interfering with his sleep, his only possible peace. Once Sukhov decided to hide it, but soon returned it to its place. It wasn't the model in the dark which was luminescent, but the ship itself in his memory, like past happiness, reproach or a punishment.

In every event there is a final, decisive, crucial instant, after which nothing can be turned back, reestablished or corrected. Such was his condition that Sukhov could not clearly recall the instant of his downfall as a commander, which seemed so unexpected.

It happened during the last days of that difficult long-range trip. How much they had had to experience and endure. But like always, Commander Sukhov had done well. He invariably found a successful way out of every difficult

situation. Previously he had also believed in his commander's good fortune, in his lucky star, which had never changed, when suddenly...

His consciousness could not accept what had happened. No, it could not be!

At the time, not only Sukhov refused to believe what had taken place. The commander of this ship was well known in the navy. Even today, after many months, everyone who knew Sukhov well acknowledges that he was, as they say, a born commander. No one ever doubted his talent, and his uncommon capacity for work was valued highly. Sukhov did everything he undertook thoroughly and well. He achieved solid results, not embellished one iota. He graduated from secondary school and his higher naval institute with gold medals. While still a lieutenant he earned great authority on the ship. Even the experienced officers, those who had seen a great deal, respected his love for ship duty, his irrepressible desire to go to sea, and his ability rapidly to achieve professional perfection. He was courageous in defending his point of view and frequently turned out to be perspicacious beyond his years. The commander of the ship which Sukhov joined as navigator became convinced of this his first time at sea.

Western countries were engaged in developing the petroleum shelf. Towers far from shore had gone up with alarming speed, and the corresponding map adjustments had not been made. The ship was returning from a long trip and found itself at night in a new region of oil fields. Very recently one encountered here only the flash of lighthouse beacons, but this time the ship's course was filled with a sea of lights. The commander began to be upset: Where were they heading?

Navigator Lieutenant Sukhov, sure of the accuracy of his work, asserted that the course was correct. It turned out to be so.

He advanced in service ahead of most of his school-fellows. He became the senior assistant to the commander of an escort ship. No one was surprised to learn that this energetic and promising officer had been awarded first the medal, "For Military Services", and later the order, "For Service to the Homeland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d class. When the former ship's commander departed for school, no one doubted that his successor would be Sukhov.

The start of his new assignment also promised a great future for him. The missiles, shells and torpedos of this escort struck their targets more accurately than the others, and his crew distinguished itself with its special mettle, cohesiveness and teamwork. The hand of an able and knowledgeable commander was felt in everything. The ship strongly excelled, became widely known in the navy and was a leader in socialist competition.

Sukhov did not spare himself. He worked hard and demanded the same from others. The commander's energetic effort to raise the prestige of the ship still higher was supported by the crew, and he always singled out those who were so committed to the navy. True, it happened that this singling out was sometimes extreme. But most of the officers accepted it as necessary, and did not doubt for a second the correctness of the commander's actions. In such

cases the unhesitating words, "the commander knows what he is doing," were heard more and more often.

Gradually the crew began to look in the same way at other "extremes" of Capt 3d Rank Sukhov. And not only the crew. More and more the officer began to "get carried away." He believed in his own infallibility and at times strutted about his own success. It is true that life pampered Sukhov, luck accompanied him. He always won, and who passes judgment on a winner?

Gradually and imperceptibly Sukhov got off the course which he had firmly and correctly followed since he was a lieutenant. Confidence turned into self-assurance, and the interests of the cause into those of his own prestige. Certainly this was noticed, but no one brought himself to doubt the actions of this leading commander, viewing his shortcomings as insignificant.

Probably the first to become seriously concerned about Sukhov's "peculiarity" was Capt Lt V. Afanas'yev, his new senior assistant. In the commander's opinion, this pedantic, circumspect officer was a man without imagination. The senior assistant was surprised that the commander considered natural several deviations from generally recognized norms. For example, Capt Lt Afanas'yev was struck by the special position of several officers in the crew. Take the commander of BCh-7 [Ship's Department 7]. He did not stand watch, nor was he burdened by several other official duties. When the senior assistant tried to find out the reason for this exclusiveness, the officer replied impertinently. Unexpectedly, the ship's commander did not even support his senior assistant.

"Don't bother him. I know better how to use the commander of BCh-7. He is an excellent specialist, and that is the main thing for the ship.

The senior assistant did not object, since he was just getting used to the ship and it was still too early to talk about his personal example.

This was seemingly a simple conflict which could be smoothed over on the eve of the long-range cruise. The ship was concluding the sea training task and Sukhov, who had until now not once left the bridge, went below, leaving his senior assistant alone for the first time. The sea was deserted except for a ship visible in the distance headed in their direction. How many times while still a watch officer Afanas'yev had solved on the plotting board problems of target divergence. But this time, because he was trying too hard, he made an error. As a result the ship passed by the other vessel at a distance a bit closer than called for. Nothing had happened, but the senior assistant considered it necessary to report the mistake to the commander. He was prepared for just about anything, but not for the reaction which followed:

"What are you talking about? I thought you had plenty of room to spare."

His voice clearly had a patronizing tone. The senior assistant knew that this was a step toward normalization of their relationship. But for this it was necessary to recognize the irreproachability of the commander's positions, although they caused doubt nevertheless. Sukhov's uncompromising nature offended his senior assistant. Their strained and impersonal official relationship

could no longer be concealed, even in the ward-room. But the main thing which damaged the authority of the new senior assistant was the fact that the commander practically refused to entrust him to run the ship.

As usual, the ship's officers approved of this step of the commander. In their opinion the escort could lose a great deal in the exceptionally cautious hands of the senior assistant. And it seemed to them that at times the situation so demanded. On the occasions that the commander's skill shone, Capt Lt Afanas'yev cast down his eyes and Capt 3d Rank Sukhov pretended not to notice the enthusiastic shine of the eyes trained on him from the bridge.

Alas, imperceptibly Sukhov came to need the admiration of those around him. He was a capable, energetic man, who through his work and persistence had achieved great success in life. He felt full of strength and the need to grow and grow, but somewhere enthusiastic gazes and responses, constant praise, and willy-nilly self-gratifying pride weakened his self-exactingness. It happened gradually, in various things, small details, and nothing warned the commander.

His place in the presidiums became permanent, on holidays he was applauded and given obligatory certificates of merit, and he declared his thanks in what had become his customary way. Shortcomings? What are they against a background of great achievements? Shortcomings were mentioned in passing, or not at all, in trying to preserve the reputation which he was building for everyone.

The commander's success was also to the liking of the communists on the ship. It never entered anyone's head to infringe upon Sukhov's authority, on his correctness always and in everything. This was true even of those who at times had doubts. Suddenly the senior assistant shows up, who allows himself to have doubts in the complete well-being of things in the crew. Capt 3d Rank Sukhov could not allow somebody to be more right or more critical than himself. This false position also led to false deeds. For the first time the commander concealed a flagrant violation on the ship, for the first time he waived his principles. He thought he was acting for the good, but he was actually being harmful, and not even because the crew perceived the commander's capability for making allowances. Sukhov himself felt that something of his infallibility was wavering, and his desire flared up even more keenly to free the reputation of the ship from doubt in any way possible, no matter what. To use a naval expression, the false course was definitively confirmed.

This is the fundamentally different way, not that to which his subordinates and superiors knew well and were accustomed, in which Capt 3d Rank Nikolay Sukhov set out on the long-range cruise. His last cruise. He was still the idol of the crew, still the commander, highly valued by his senior commanders.

It is not for nothing that a long-range cruise is said to be a real test for a navy man. If not today, then tomorrow, if not right away, then in time it will display the weakness in a man if such exists, even if at times it has not been noticed by anyone. An ocean cruise is so completely filled with the most unusual, unexpected and critical events that only a profound, thoroughly grounded basis for success can bear up. Sukhov's success, which occurred as a manifestation of his uncommon capabilities, hard work, persistence, purposefulness and

commander's exactingness, had already lost a great deal of its firm foundation. There remained only luck, which inevitably comes to an end.

The crew was returning home with a firm hope of an excellent rating for its fulfillment of the tasks of the cruise.

Everyone was happy. Sukhov exulted inside. No, his lucky star had not dimmed, and the doubts which his senior assistant had aroused in him nonetheless, which had not allowed him to rest during the months of the cruise, immediately disappeared. He felt unchained as he hadn't for a long time, and he allowed himself to become slack as he had never done before.

They entered a strait, and the patches of fog alongside merged into a solid, milky veil. Capt 3d Rank Sukhov ordered that those off watch be formed up. His address was brief:

"We have received a radio message from the task force commander. It thanks us for our service. We are nearly home. It is necessary not to reduce vigilance at our posts and worthily complete the cruise."

Why did he talk about vigilance at that time? Was it from habit, conforming himself to the situation? Yes, he was a true professional, and to a great extent the automatic reaction to the situation was programmed in him. But only later, after the fact, did Sukhov understand that his very professionalism somewhere inside had arisen to oppose his ardour. Unfortunately, only his professionalism had arisen. The voice of his commander's responsibility this time did not warn Sukhov.

Yes, they were almost home. The crew, heeding their commander's order, were especially diligent on watch. But the captain himself, believing that it would do no harm, began to "celebrate" his successful return. In the end the senior commander ordered his dismissal from command of the ship at a time when familiar, home waters were already washing the side of the escort.

He knew that all was finished -- all that he had worked for his entire life, sparing no effort, and which, unthinking, he had risked.

Sukhov went down to the word-room as if to the scaffold: a fallen idol. He did not touch his food, and could not bring himself to speak. He continued to do the one thing which he could, the only thing which remained -- to observe etiquette.

As he was leaving, Sukhov suddenly heard a muffled:

"He is finished as a commander."

Someone abruptly interrupted the speaker. His former subordinates and friends onboard ship and in the navy, fully acknowledging the just severity of the measures taken against Sukhov, also understood all the drama of the fall of this exceptional man and commander. They knew that they were also largely at

fault for his downfall, by willy-nilly supporting the officer's simple certitude in his own excellence.

We met Sukhov (in fact his name has been changed, as has that of his senior assistant). Memories lie heavy on Sukhov, and the wound of his guilt is not healing, and for a man such as he will never heal.

9069

CSO: 1801/154

NAVAL FORCES

SUBJECT INDEX FOR 1984 ISSUES

Moscow MORSKOY SBORNIK in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 5 Dec 83)
pp 90-92

[Text] I. LEAD ARTICLES

1. Certain Questions on the Strategic Use of the Navy in the Modern Situation
2. Guarding the Conquests of October
3. Persistently Improve the Officer Training
4. V.I. Lenin on Discipline, Personal Responsibility and Performance Efficiency
5. Study and Use the War Experience More Thoroughly
6. The Communist--the Party's Political Fighter (On the Anniversary of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee)
7. Improve Classes in the Specialty
8. The Staff, Flight Discipline and Safety
9. The Lessons of History Call for Vigilance
10. Improve the Combat Training
Enhance the Effectiveness of the Political Training
11. October and the Progress of Mankind
12. Persistently Add to the Traditions of the Navy

II. PROPAGANDIZING MARXIST-LENINIST THEORY AND CPSU POLICY

1. Current Problems of Foreign and Domestic Party Policy in Light of Decisions Coming out of the 26th CPSU Congress
2. Ways Outlined at the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee for Further Perfecting Developed Socialism
3. Progressive Experience in Ideological and Mass Political Work on the Ships, in the Units and Formations

III. PARTY-POLITICAL WORK AND MILITARY INDOCTRINATION

1. The Study and Implementation of Decisions Coming out of the 26th Party Congress and Subsequent Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee on the Ships, in the Units and Formations
2. Decisions of the Report-and-Election Party Meetings and Party Conferences--to Life
3. The Work Practices of Commanders, Political Organs, Party and Komsomol Organizations for Enhancing Vigilance and Combat Readiness and Indoctrinating the Seamen as True Patriots and Internationalists

4. Progressive Experience of Political Organs, Party and Komsomol Organizations in Mobilizing the Personnel to Reliably Master the Combat Equipment and Weapons, Maintain Them in a State of Combat Readiness and Prevent Accidents
5. Developing a High Level of Responsibility and Discipline in the Officers
6. Progressive Work Experience of Commanders, Political Workers, Party and Komsomol Organizations in Strengthening Military Discipline, Establishing the Demands Contained in the Navy Regulations and Strict Regulation Organization of the Service on the Ships
7. The Work Practices of Political Organs for Enhancing the Militancy of Party Organizations in Light of Decisions Coming out of the 26th CPSU Congress and in Accordance with Recommendations Issued at the 6th All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Primary Party Organizations
8. Party-Political Work on the Ships and in the Units During the Great Patriotic War: Propaganda of Combat Traditions
9. Work Experience of the Political Organ (Party Organization) on Long Naval Cruises
10. Experience in Party-Political Work While the Ship is in a Foreign Port
11. Work Practices of Political Organs and Party Organizations for Assuring Accident-Free Sailing and Flight Safety
12. The Political Section and Propaganda of Progressive Experience in the Socialist Competition
13. The Komsomol Work--up to the Level of Party Demands (On the 5th All-Army Conference of Secretaries of Komsomol Organizations)
14. Work Experience of Progressive Komsomol Organizations in Enhancing the Combat Skills and the Personal Example of the Komsomol Members in Light of Decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee
15. The Development of Friendship and Comradeship in the Multinational Collective

IV. NAVAL ART

1. Improving the Theory of Naval Art, Taking Into Account the Capabilities of the New Weapons Systems, and Developing Practical Recommendations for Operating Procedures and Ways of Using the Forces
2. Communications in the System for Controlling the Naval Forces
3. Principles of Mathematical Modeling of Complex Military Systems: Assessment of the Effectiveness of Using Systems of Automated Control of the Naval Forces
4. Operational Preparation of Sea and Ocean Theaters of Military Operations
5. The Effect of Operations and Systematic Actions by Naval Forces upon the Course of Military Operations in Land Theaters
6. The Use of Mine Weapons in a War and at Sea
7. Ways and Methods of Using the Forces in Local Wars
8. The Study of Hydrological Features of Various Areas of the World Ocean and Their Effect Upon the Functioning of the Navy
9. The Experience of Naval Combat Operations in the Great Patriotic War
10. Engineer Support for the Combat Operations of River Flotillas During the Great Patriotic War

V. COMBAT TRAINING

1. The Training and the Performance of Ship Commanders, Executive Officers and Other Officers on the Ships, and the Commanders and Officers of Air Units Subunits of the Naval Infantry and Coastal Missile and Artillery Troops: How Their Training and Personal Example Affect Combat Readiness, the State of Military Discipline and the Performance on Long Cruises.
2. Individual Training--the Basis of the Crew's Training and of Its Preparedness to Perform Its Missions
3. Tactical, Special and General Training: Ways to Enhance the Responsibility of Commanders and Staff Officers for the Organization, Evaluation and Control of Combat Training Measures
4. Experience in Conducting Two-Side Tactical Exercises
5. The Propaganda and Application of Regulations of the Armed Forces and the Navy for Strengthening Order and Military Discipline
6. The Seagoing Officer's Naval and Technical Caliber
7. The Work of Naval Training Institutions, Courses and Training Detachments
8. Socialist Competition: Experience, Problems, Missions, Results

VI. NAVIGATION, STUDY OF THE WORLD OCEAN, NATURAL PHENOMENA AND THE LIFE OF THE OCEAN, INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW

1. Experience in Using Radio Navigation Systems to Increase Accuracy in Determining the Location of Ships and Assure Their Navigational Safety
2. Experience in Training Seagoing Officers for Navigation: Improving Their Navigational Caliber
3. Experience of Ship Commanders in Assuring Navigating Safety and Monitoring the Work of the Navigation Division at Sea
4. Experience in Preparing for Cruises and for the Use of Technical Navigational Means and in Setting Up Special Navigation Watches on Ships of the Navy
5. Modern Navigation Methods and Prospects for Their Development
6. Experience in Navigating Specific Areas of the World Ocean, Straits and Narrows
7. The Use of Mini-Computers for Navigation
8. Results of the Study of the World Ocean by Oceanographic Expeditions
9. The Flora and Fauna of the World Ocean, Natural Phenomena Occurring in the Ocean Environment and in the Atmosphere
10. Propaganda of International Legal Information Essential to Seagoing Officers on Ocean Cruises for Assuring Competent Work by Ship Crews in Various Areas of the World Ocean and When Interacting With Foreign Ships and Vessels
11. Changes in the Maritime Laws of Foreign States

VII. ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

1. The Problem of Assuring that Ships are in a Good State of Technical Combat Readiness
2. Progressive Experience in Using a Ship's Technical Equipment in the Performance of Its Assigned Missions
3. Preventing Breakdowns of the Equipment and Armaments
4. Problems of Developing the Training Materials and Equipment Base
5. Ways of Improving the Survivability of Ships
6. Preparing the Personnel for Damage-Control Work
7. The State of and Prospects for Development of the Ship's Equipment and Naval Weapons Systems: Fighting the Ship's Physical Fields

8. Employment of Advanced Methods of Scientific Organization of Labor for Maintaining the Hulls, Equipment and Weapons: Enhancing Technical Discipline
9. Propaganda of the Creative Work of Rationalizers and Inventors and the Contents of Displays at the Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR
10. Experience in Conserving Fuels and Lubricants

VII. FOREIGN NAVIES

1. On the Development of a High Level of Political Vigilance and Hatred for the Homeland's Class Enemies
2. The Views of the U.S. Navy Command on the Performance of Radioelectronic Warfare" and a Description of the Equipment Used
3. The State of and Prospects for Development of the Navies of the Leading Western Nations and Japan
4. The Development of U.S. ASW Forces and Their Operating Tactics
5. Views of the NATO Command on the Use of Antiship Missiles and the Organization of Antimissile Defense
6. A Study of the Use of Naval Forces in Local Wars and Armed Conflicts
7. New Types of Weapons, Equipment and Means of Control
8. The Organization of Control of U.S. Naval Forces and NATO's Joint Naval Forces
9. The Moral-Political Strength of NATO's Naval Forces
10. The Combat Training of Foreign Navies and the Operating Tactics of Their Personnel and Equipment
11. A Review of the Present State of the Spanish, Turkish, Australian and Iranian Navies
12. A Description of Ships and Aircraft of the American Navy

IX. QUESTIONS OF HISTORY, CRITICISM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Indoctrinating the Personnel With Examples of Courage, Steadfastness and Selflessness in the Performance of the Military Duty of Protecting the Homeland's Security and the Conquests of Socialism
2. The Propaganda of Revolutionary and Combat Traditions for Purposes of Developing Good Moral-Political, Combat and Ethical Qualities and Producing an Active Stance in Life in the Seamen
3. Use of the Combat Experience of the Great Patriotic War for Enhancing the Combat and Special Training of the Personnel in the Contemporary Situation
4. Exposing the Bourgeois Falsifiers of World War II and the Great Patriotic War
5. The Soviet Navy's Contribution to the Achievement of Victory Over the Enemy in the Great Patriotic War: Interaction of the Fleets and Flotillas with the Ground Forces in Strategic Offensive Operations on the Soviet-German Front in 1944 (Leningrad-Novgorod, Crimean, "Bagration," Petsamo-Kirkenes and Other Operations)
6. Important and Memorable Events and Dates in the History of Our Navy
7. Biographical Information on Prominent Figures of the Russian and Soviet Navies, Navy Leaders, Scientists and Ship Builders
8. Critical Articles and Reviews of Books on Military and Naval Subjects, Reviews of the Navy Press on the Most Important Problems in the Training and

Indoctrination of the Personnel and on the Fulfillment of Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the November 1982 and June 1983 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee: Information on New Books and Publications on Naval Subjects

9. The Navy and Seamen in Works of Creative Art, the Theater and Movies: Their Use for Military-Patriotic, Moral and Ethical Indoctrination of the Seamen

COLUMNS CARRIED IN THE JOURNAL

Decisions of the 26th CPSU Central Committee--to Life!
The Delegate to the 26th CPSU Congress Takes the Floor
Ideological and Mass Political Work Practices
Discipline, Responsibility, Performance Efficiency
The Subunit--the Center of Party-Political Work
Progressive Experience--Into Practice!
For the Weapons and Equipment--Constant Readiness!
Memory of the Fiery Years
In Battles and on Cruises
The Commander: Experience, Problems, Reflections
Duty, Honor, Responsibility of the Officer
To Help the Young Commander
The First Assistants of the Officers
At the Naval Training Institutions
In the Struggle for Conservation and Thrift
The Reader Continues the Discussion
Matters of Psychology and Pedagogics
Navy Chronicle
Reports, Facts...(Foreign Navy Chronicle)
We Performed Cruises
Life of the Fraternal Navies
Physical Training, Sports, Tourism

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11499

CSO: 1801/148

NAVAL FORCES

INDEX TO ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN 1983

Moscow MORSKOY SBORNIK in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 5 Dec 83)
pp 93-96

[Text] I. DECISIONS OF THE 26TH CPSU CONGRESS--TO LIFE!

- V. Belov, "In the Struggle for Conservation and Thrift," No 5, pp 16-18
A. Visaulin, "The Competition Both Helps and Indoctrinates," No 10, pp 21-23
V. Gromak, "The Ocean Test," No 11, pp 8-12
Ye. Zarodov, "Fulfilling the Food Program," No 3, pp 8-10
E. Zimin, "The Ideological Work--up the Level of Contemporary Tasks," No 10,
pp 15-20
Ye. Zarodov, "The Party Organization--Center of Ideological and Indoctrinational
Work," No 12, pp 8-11
G. Ivanov, "At Each Combat Station," No 1, pp 15-18
P. Medvedev, "Persistently Master the Leninist Work Style," No 6, pp 14-20
V. Myasnikov, "Miles of Spiritual Steadfastness," No 1, pp 11-15
V. Myasnikov, "Taking Counteraction is the Same as Attacking," No 12, pp 11-13
M. Tikhonov, "The Military Tempering of the Homeland's Defenders," No 7, pp 17-21
Yu. Fedotov, "Activating the Cognitive Functioning of the Future Officers," No
9, pp 8-11
V. Kharitonov, "Implement the Critical Comments and Suggestions of the Com-
munists," No 8, pp 13-17

II. LEAD ARTICLES, ARTICLES ON GENERAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUBJECTS

- "The Vanguard of the Soviet People," No 7, pp 5-9
"Actively Adopt Advanced Know-How," No 4, pp 9-11
A. Aristov, "The Party--the Mind, the Honor and Conscience of Our Era," No 7,
p 10
T. Belashchenko, "The Imperialist Proponents of the 'Cold War'," No 4, pp 12-16
"Great October and the Modern World," No 11, pp 3-7
"The Great Victory of the Soviet People," No 5, pp 3-7
A. Dyrin, "Military Questions in the Works of Karl Marx," No 5, pp 12-15
"Ideological Work--the Job of the Entire Party," No 8, pp 3-7
"Leninism--the Banner of Our Era," No 4, pp 3-8
"To New Heights of Combat Skill," No 10, pp 5-9
A. Mikhaylovskiy and N. Usenko, "The Main Tradition--to Win," No 6, pp 3-8
"To the Young Officers--Unweakening Attention," No 10, pp 10-13

- "The Fleet's Ocean Watches," No 7, pp 12-16
- "They Were the First," No 7, p 11
- "Enhance Combat Readiness and Vigilance," No 1, pp 5-10
- "Preparing the Ships for Sailing in the Fall-Winter Period," No 9, pp 3-7
- "Factors of Trouble-Free Sailing," No 12, pp 3-7
- "Service Duties," No 5, pp 8-11
- "They Are Created by the Will of the Party," No 2, pp 3-9
- "Work Style and Staff Caliber," No 8, pp 8-12
- "Steadfast Guard of the Northern Borders," No 6, pp 9-13
- "Strengthen Military Discipline, Law and Order," No 3, pp 3-7

III. NAVAL ART AND QUESTIONS OF THEORY

- A. Aristov, "Method, Technique or Procedure?", No 12, pp 17-20
- A. Gontayev, "Combat Operations of Submarines on Lines of Communication," No 1, pp 24-32
- S. Gorshkov, "Questions of the Theory of the Navy," No 7, pp 27-38
- I. Kapitanets, "The Navy's Role in the Anglo-Argentine Conflict," No 2, pp 14-20
- G. Karmenok, "Directing Submarines of the Navy in Operations on Enemy Lines of Communication," No 5, pp 22-26
- N. Letchford, "On Assessing the Performance of Military Science Projects," No 12, pp 20-21
- N. Makhrov, "On the Conceptual (ponyatiynny) Mechanism for Controlling the Forces," No 2, pp 21-26
- V. Minakov, "Operations of the Black Sea Fleet's Aviation in the Liberation of the Crimea," No 11, pp 22-25
- V. Ponikarovskiy, "On the Theory of Control and the History of Navies in Naval Art," No 3, pp 18-23
- A. Pushkin, "Combat Operations by Submarines of Italy and Germany in the Mediterranean Sea During World War II," No 9, pp 15-21
- A. Pushkin, "Soviet Submarines in the Great Patriotic War," No 6, pp 24-29
- K. Stalbo, "U.S. Strategy in the World Ocean," No 10, pp 29-36
- M. Terent'yev and V. Obukhov, "Preparing the Aviation of the Pacific Fleet and Directing It," No 11, pp 16-21
- A. Fedotov and V. Fradkin, "Assessing the Functional Effectiveness of Support Subsystems in Complex Systems," No 5, pp 26-27
- Yu. Khramov, "The Air Regiment's Staff in the Performance of Combat Operations," No 8, pp 21-26
- V. Shlomin, "Military Science and the Navy," No 4, pp 20-27

IV. PARTY-POLITICAL WORK AND MILITARY INDOCTRINATION

- M. Apollonov, "Party Concern for Discipline," No 11, pp 26-28
- N. Bogachev, "Under Party Control," No 10, pp 37-38
- S. Bystrov, "A Trial," No 2, pp 33-36
- M. Goncharov, "Conservation and Thrift---at the Center of Attention," No 10, pp 39-41
- V. Gromak, "Combat Shift Take Over...", No 4, pp 31-35
- I. Demidov, "Museum of Baltic Glory," No 11, p 30
- B. Dubinin, "Moral Standards of the Group and the Individual," No 9, pp 22-26
- N. Yelets, "Party-Political Work in Exercises," No 4, pp 28-31

- N. Kobelev, "Esthetics of Shipboard Life," No 3, pp 31-35
 T. Kozlov, "Caliber of Indoctrination," No 12, pp 25-29
 T. Kozlov, "Only One Right," No 1, pp 33-37
 Yu. Kozlov, "Training of the Komsomol Aktiv," No 11, pp 28-30
 V. Kozyr', "Party Concern for the Life of the Personnel," No 6, pp 30-32
 I. Kosykov, "The Indoctrinational Role of Personal Example," No 9, pp 27-29
 V. Kruglyakov, "The Indoctrinational Role of the Staff Officer," No 3, pp 24-29
 Yu. Kuzin, "Patriotic Indoctrination of the Ship Crews," No 6, pp 32-35
 V. Moskalev, "Good Morale Helps in the Service," No 5, pp 32-35
 V. Osipov, "With Daily Concern for the Men," No 8, pp 31-34
 "Work Each Day to Develop Good Moral and Fighting Qualities in the Seamen," No 1, p 10
 P. Posokhov, "Confident Take-Off From the Deck," No 8, pp 27-31
 A. Pushkin, "Lessons in Disciplinary Practices," No 2, pp 27-32
 N. Ryabushkin, "...Plus Skill and Worldly Wisdom," No 3, pp 29-31
 V. Sal'nikov, "Atheistic Indoctrination of the Fightingmen," No 7, pp 42-43
 V. Sogulyakin, "The Ship's Commander And the Uniting of the Crew," No 12, pp 22-25
 P. Syritsyn, "So That the Division is... a Combat Division," No 7, pp 39-41
 P. Syritsyn, "Relving on the Petty Officers," No 12, pp 30-32
 A. Timoshenko, "One Also Needs to Be Sincere," No 9, pp 29-31
 N. Yakubovskiy, "The Activeness of the Communists in the Competition," No 5 pp 28-31

V. COMBAT TRAINING

- V. Alekseyev, "In Precise Planning--the Guarantee of Success," No 11, pp 31-37
 V. Aleksin, "The Squadron Navigation Officer--Organizer of the Squadron's Navigation Service," No 12, pp 39-41
 N. Balashov and C. Bakharev, "Skilful Planning--a Guarantee of Successes," No 5, pp 42-45
 R. Belozеров, "Methods for Organizing the Group Monitoring of Knowledge," No 4, pp 45-47
 P. Beregov, "...For the Night Battle," No 10, pp 54-57
 A. Bronevitskiy and V. Bulavchik, "For the Watch Officers' Training--a Creative Approach," No 12, pp 42-45
 A. Buryak, "Methods for Determining Adjustments in Relative Broadside (lag) From Data on the Absolute," No 3, pp 56-57
 Yu. Bronev, "The Conclusions of Certification--into Practice!", No 6, pp 36-40
 N. V'yunenko and V. Slugarev, "Improve the Training and Certification of the Scientists," No 7, pp 44-48
 N. Gavrilenko and V. Nikulin, "The Poetry and Prose of Their Service," No 3, pp 14-15
 N. Gavrilenko, "The Lessons of an Unsuccessful Firing," No 9, pp 36-40
 N. Gavrilenko, "Flag Officer of an Outstanding Unit," No 1, pp 44-48
 F. Gladikh, "Prevention of Stress in Airmen," No 11, pp 45-48
 Yu Golovanov, "Experience in International Radio Exchange on a Long Cruise," No 9, pp 41-44
 Ye. Golousov, "So That the Knowledge is More Thorough," No 5, pp 45-49
 A. Goltvenko and A. Zhitsitskiy, "The Airman Acquires Skills," No 4, pp 48-51
 I. Gordeyev, "What and How to Teach the Commander at Sea," No 5, pp 36-39

- G. Gorshkov, "Improve the International Legal Training of the Officers," No 11, pp 51-55
- R. Demidov and H. Shchemelev, "Summer Longevity," No 9, pp 44-49
- V. Dobroskochenko, "Everything Begins With the Officer," No 6, pp 40-44
- B. Yevstaf'ev and Ye. Naumenko, "Physical Training of Airmen on a Long Cruise," No 12, pp 50-52
- V. Yegorov and F. Chausov, "The Research Approach to the Combat Training Tasks," No 3, pp 39-43
- V. Yoltukhovskiy, "The Combat Training of Mine-Sweeping Forces on the Eve of the War," No 9, pp 53-55
- R. Dadyrov, "The Physical Training of Submariners During a Post-Cruise Rest," No 3, p 59
- Ya. Kuvalev, "Calculating the Maneuvering for Diverging From a Head-On Target With the Relative Shift Method," No 3, pp 52-56
- A. Klimenko, "Where the Cold Waves Splash," No 8, pp 56-58
- I. Kosikov, "The Course Chief: Concerns, Problems...", No 11, pp 38-40
- B. Kostylev, "Going Out to Sea--Always a Test," No 11, pp 40-44
- A. Lis and V. Chestnykh, "The Structure-and-Function Method of Studying the Regulations," No 3, pp 43-46
- M. Lukavskiy and Ye. Samoylov, "Oxygen Under High Pressure in Medical Practice," No 5, pp 53-54
- V. Malyarchuk, "Some Experience in Training Seagoing Warrant Officers," No 9, pp 32-36
- "Shallows in the Lieutenants' Channel," No 2, pp 44-50
- V. Mel'nikov, "The Victories of a Valorous Baltic Seaman," No 11, pp 48-51
- B. Mis'kov, "An Aircraft Falling on its Wing (svalivaniye na krylo)," No 4, pp 51-56
- A. Mikhail'chenko, "A School of Combat Skill," No 7, pp 58-61
- A. Moroz, "Considering the Ship's Tendency to Yaw and the Total Drift When Passing Through Narrows," No 5, pp 49-52
- P. Navoytsev, "In the Interest of Enhancing Safety at Sea," No 10, pp 42-45
- A. Pelikhov, "Shoulder to Shoulder," No 12, pp 47-49
- V. Pereygin, "Responsible for Navigational Safety," No 2, pp 37-40
- A. Polozhentsev, "When Icing Occurs," No 1, pp 53-56
- B. Popov, "The Combat Shift's Competition," No 8, pp 45-48
- N. Potemkin, "Guarding the Health of the Seamen," No 7, pp 49-52
- V. Proskurnin, "Flight Safety--at the Center of Attention," No 7, pp 52-57
- G. Putyati, "The Homeland's Defenders Are Growing," No 5, p 55
- M. Kuban, "The Airman's Preflight Regimen," No 6, pp 44-48
- V. Kuchkov, "An Important Stage in the Training of Students," No 3, pp 36-38
- N. Ryabushkin, "The Squadron Commander," No 6, pp 49-52
- V. Sinegubov and N. Gavrilenko, "It Is Difficult to Develop Commanders," No 4, pp 40-44
- Ye. Skvortsov, "The Officer Develops Within the Collective," No 4, pp 36-40
- R. Skubko and I. Domashniy, "The Performance of Stellar Guidance Tasks by Means of Programmed Minicalculators," No 10, pp 57-61
- A. Soldatenkov, "Stern-to-Stern Mooring of Two Small Ships," No 12, pp 45-46
- I. Slavin, "Flights From a Ship's Deck," No 9, pp 49-52
- V. Smirnov, "Timely Flight Preparations," No 10, pp 49-54
- N. Smirnov, "The Commander's Professional Competence," No 12, pp 33-38
- A. Terent'yev, "A Great Deal Depends Upon the Work Style," No 2, pp 50-52

- A. Terent'yev, "The Sky is a Strict Examiner," No 3, pp 47-51
 S. Tuganov, "Navigation Safety for Missile Boats," No 8, pp 53-56
 I. Uskov, "Improve the Commander's Training," No 10, pp 45-49
 V. Fedorov, "Methods for Compiling the Plan for the Course Project," No 2, pp 41-44
 B. Fedorovskiy, "Instrument Flights," No 1, pp 48-53
 I. Shevchenko and V. Strutovskiy, "Are the Commitments Substantial?", No 8, pp 40-44
 B. Shvedin, "Models of Difficult Situations," No 8, pp 48-53
 B. Shvedin, "Psychological Preparation of the Officers," No 5, pp 39-42
 G. Shchedrin, "The Watch Officer is on the Bridge," No 1, pp 38-43
 Ye. Pakhomov and V. Arsen'yev, "An Outstanding Crew," No 10, pp 24-25
 N. Lukich, "The Hospital Ship 'Yenisey'," No 11, pp 10-11
 N. Morozov and Yu. Pakhomov, "The Scientific Center of Naval Medicine," No 9, pp 56-57
 Yu. Pakhomov, "Exercises Are Underway," No 6, p 53
 Yu. Pakhomov and N. Lukich, "Yet Another Victory of the 'Mussor'," No 1, pp 22-23
 Yu. Pakhomov and N. Lukich, "Callsigns of Success for the 'Retivyy'," No 3, pp 16-17
 Yu. Pakhomov and N. Lukich, "For You, the Homeland, Our Military Work," No 7, pp 22-23
- NAVY CHRONICLE: No 1, pp 19-21; No 2, pp 11-13; No 3, pp 11-13, No 4, pp 17-19;
 No 5, pp 19-21; No 6, pp 21-23; No 7, pp 24-26; No 8, pp 18-20; No 9, pp 12-14;
 No 10, pp 26-28; No 11, pp 13-15; No 12, pp 14-16

VI. PAGES OF HISTORY

- G. Avdokhin, "The Higher Naval Radio-Electronics School imeni A.S. Popov is 50 years Old," No 3, pp 64-65
 V. Arsen'yev, "Meetings in a Legendary Land," No 5, pp 61-66
 Yu. Badakh, "With the Romantics of 'Sunny Yards'," No 12, pp 58-60
 Yu. Bodarevskiy, "A Whole Life With the Navy," No 11, pp 64-65
 Yu. Bodarevskiy, "The First Brigade Commander," No 6, p 65
 V. Bormotova, "The Revolutionary Democrats and the Navy," No 3, pp 66-68
 V. Bulatov, "The Arctic Epic of the North Sea Sailors," No 10, pp 64-68
 Ye. Bystrov, "According to the Party Will," No 7, pp 62-65
- IN BATTLES AND ON CRUISES: No 1, pp 59-61; No 2, pp 59-62; No 3, pp 58-60; No 4, pp 61-64; No 5, pp 56-58; No 6, pp 59-60; No 7, pp 65-67; No 8, pp 60-62; No 9, pp 58-60; No 10, pp 62-64; No 11, pp 56-58; No 12, pp 53-55
- N. V'yunenkov, "Sailor, Researcher, Scientist...", No 10, pp 67-68
 L. Gorodnichiy, "Our Victorious 'Double'," No 4, pp 54-55
 V. Dmitriyev, "V.I. Lenin on the Main Problems of the Navy," No 4, pp 57-61
 M. Yegorov, "Berth for Memory," No 9, pp 64-66
 M. Yes'kov, "The Boats Are Launching an Attack," No 9, pp 60-63
 "They Earned it in Battles for the Homeland," No 3, pp 60-61; No 5, pp 58-59
 "Name for a Feat--Stalingrad," No 2, pp 53-54
 S. Isayev, "On the Kursk Salient," No 8, pp 62-64
 "On the First Surfacing at the North Pole," No 9, p 69

- "Calendar of Important Navy Dates for July-December, 1983," No 6, pp 71-72
 "Calendar of Important Navy Dates for January-June, 1984," No 12, pp 55-56
 V. Kislyakov, "No Fraternity Stronger Than Combat Fraternity," No 6, pp 56-57
 M. Kozhevnikov, "Sailor of the Revolution," No 6, p 58
 M. Krylov, "Communication of Naval Forces," No 6, pp 66-69
 L. Kurnikov, "The Veterans Do Not Age in their Hearts," No 9, pp 67-69
 N. Lyashenko, "Outstanding Soviet Surgeon," No 8, pp 70-71
 B. Maslennikov, "...Tireless Researcher, Conscientious and Skilled to the Highest Degree," No 7, pp 67-69
 "The Sailors' Commissar," No 5, p 60
 V. Mel'nikov, "Not Sparing One's Life for Victory," No 2, pp 62-65
 L. Mitin, "A History of the Hydrographic Study of Sevastopol Bay," No 5, pp 67-68
 F. Mikhaylov, "We Have but One Care--to Be on the Alert," No 2, p 67
 "We Proceeded Under the Roar of a Cannonade," No 11, pp 58-62
 "On the Forward Edge of Science," No 2, pp 65-66
 B. Novyy, "Development of the Navy's Radio Engineering Service," No 6, pp 69-71
 L. Osipenko, "The Nuclear-Powered Fleet's Firstborne Goes Into Service," No 7, pp 69-71
 F. Pronyakov, "In the Polar Sky," No 6, pp 55-56
 N. Radchenko, "Along the Seething Channels," No 2, pp 68-69; No 3, pp 62-63
 I. Redanskiy, "Along Routes Marked With Feats," No 8, pp 65-68
 M. Roshal', "In the Struggle for Soviet Power," No 10, pp 68-69
 G. Rudenko, "The First Commander," No 6, p 64
 V. Rykov and P. Rykov, "The Commander of the Destroyer," No 6, p 66
 V. Samokhin, "This is How We Achieved Victory," No 8, pp 68-70
 A. Sokolovskiy, "The Youth at the Walls of Stalingrad," No 1, pp 62-66
 A. Sukhonenko, "The Cradle of Heros," No 6, pp 61-63
 I. Tomashevskiy, "Outstanding Scientist and Ship Builder," No 12, pp 61-62
 M. Fedorov, "Heading the Republic's Naval Forces," No 12, pp 60-61
 M. Filimoshin, "'For Soviet Power!'," No 11, pp 62-64
 N. Cherkashin, "Off a List, But Not From History," No 1, pp 66-68
 N. Chiker, "Loyal to the Traditions of the Expedition for Special Purpose Under Water Works," No 12, pp 56-58
 V. Shevchenko, "Breaking the Blockade Ring," No 1, pp 57-59

VII. ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Aristov, "Protecting Metal From Corrosion by the Sea," No 1, pp 74-76
 G. Belov, "Restoring Parts by the Thermal-Gas Coating Method," No 11, pp 68-71
 G. Byakin, "'Invisible' Targets," No 7, pp 76-78
 "Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR: Recommended for Adoption," No 3, p 76; No 12, p 69
 A. Loryachkin, "Modular-Assembly Method of Building Ships," No 10, pp 70-73
 G. Gromak and V. Yartsev, "Machinery Vibrations and Ship Noises," No 12, pp 63-66
 S. Gubanenko, "Technical Diagnostics for Gas-Turbine Engines," No 4, pp 64-70
 N. Direktorov and A. Katanovich, "Fiber Light Conductors," No 12, pp 67-68
 Yu. Zheglov, M. Kurazhev and V. Begunov, "The 'Spika' Miniature, Electronic Keyboard Computer for Ships," No 9, pp 72-75
 B. Shevlyakov, V. Markin and M. Gerner, "Automated Knowledge Control system," No 5, pp 76-77
 A. Larubin and T. Minashvili, "Night Vision Instruments," No 5, pp 74-75

- D. Zozulya, "Device for Guiding the Mooring Cable into the Ring of a Harbor Mooring Buoy," No 2, p 79
- D. Zozulya, "Device for Anchoring Ships in Storms," No 9, pp 75-76
- A. Il'in, and B. Azarov, "Protection Against Radioelectronic Jamming," No 4, pp 65-68
- A. Indeytsev, "Damage Control Problems for Surface Ships," No 3, pp 69-74
- N. Kostyunin, "Use of General-Purpose Glue for Repair Jobs," No 11, pp 77-78
- G. Malinin, "Experience in Training Crews for Damage-Control Work," No 6, pp 73-77
- N. Mamayev, "Modeling a Ship Fire-Prevention System," No 1, pp 71-73
- M. Mozhayeva, "Powder Metallurgy," No 9, pp 79-80
- O. Moiseyenko and V. Surnin, "Reducing the Noise Level of Surface Ships," No 7, pp 74-76
- V. Morozov, "Suggestions for Using the Cooling System for the DCAS Diesel Generator," No 2, pp 70-72
- L. Murdasov, "Experience in Conserving Fuel and Supplies," No 3, pp 75-76
- V. Novikov, A. Mastryukov and A. Arzumanov, "The Infrastructure and Man," No 11, pp 74-75
- V. Novikov, "The Ship's Technical Combat Readiness," No 5, pp 69-72
- V. Ovsyanikov, "Mine-Exploding Vessels," No 9, pp 76-78
- I. Parovichnikov, "Ways to Develop a Materials and Equipment Base for Damage Control Training," No 1, pp 69-71
- N. Partala, "The British Ship-Based Nuclear Attack Warning Station," No 11, pp 75-76
- A. Pechenkin, "Monitoring the Ship's Technical Condition," No 7, pp 72-74
- G. Popov, "The Navy's Radio Engineering Service is 40 Years Old," No 8, pp 72-76
- V. Putilov and V. Pechkovskiy, "Biological Factors Affecting the Ship's Equipment, Fuel and Oil," No 2, pp 76-78
- L. Rashchupkin, "Along the Routes of Technical Progress," No 4, pp 71-72
- V. Svistunov, "Indices for Effectiveness in the Use of Ship Power Plants," No 11, pp 70-71
- A. Sorokin, "System for Directing the Independent Work of Cadets," No 11, pp 81-82
- V. Stefanovskiy, "Ways to Conserve Energy," No 11, pp 66-68
- "Technology for Painting Vessels in Inclement Weather," No 6, p 77
- A. Tikhonov, "Damage Control Work on the Destroyer 'Besposhchadnyy'," No 11, pp 71-74
- F. Chausov, "Experience in Planning Technical Maintenance of Shipboard Equipment and Weapons," No 2, pp 73-76
- N. Shakharatov, "Progressive Painting Technology," No 8, p 77

III. NATURAL PHENOMENA AND THE LIFE OF THE OCEAN

- A. Polyanin, "Dangerous and Poisonous Marine Animals in the Baltic Sea," No 4, pp 73-77
- V. Chuvashov, "Seiches," No 11, pp 79-80
- "Changes in Maritime Law," No 7, p 82
- P. Nazarenko, G. Gorshkov and A. Ostrometskiy, "Legal Regulations for Coastal Maritime Waters and the Law on the State Border of the USSR," No 7, pp 79-82
- A. Ostrometskiy, "Changes in Maritime Law," No 2, p 26; No 10, p 73
- A. Pakhotnik, "Problems of the Ocean are an Ocean of Problems," No 3, pp 77-80
- E. Sorokin, "International Maritime Organizations and Navy Navigation," No 6, pp 78-81
- V. Akimov, "The Results of an Antarctic Cruise," No 12, pp 76-80

- V. Akimov and B. Rodionov, "On the Course of the First Discoverers of the Antarctic: No 3, pp 86-90; No 4, pp 84-87; No 5, pp 83-86; No 7, pp 87-89; No 8, pp 82-86; No 9, pp 87-91
- V. Oppokov, "A Halt on a Long Trip," No 1, pp 86-91; No 2, pp 82-87
- B. Rodionov, "If One Sows a Good Wind," No 11, pp 83-88
- B. Rodionov and V. Myasnikov, "Soviet Sailors in New Zealand," No 10, pp 77-80
- V. Sinegubov, "In the Land of Carthage," No 12, pp 80-85

IX. IN THE FOREIGN NAVIES

- M. Boytsov, "'Trident' Plus 'Tomahawk'," No 10, pp 74-77
- A. Vorob'yev, S. Generalov, B. Loboyko and G. Smirnov, "A System of Laser Communication with Submarines," No 2, pp 80-81
- N. Yevgen'yev, "The British Navy's Mobile Rear Services in the South Atlantic," No 4, pp 78-80
- N. Kabalin, "The 'Tomahawk' From Shore--Against Ships," No 11, pp 81-83
- A. Partala and N. Partala, "Radioelectronic Warfare Equipment of Missile Boats," No 4, pp 81-84
- B. Poyarkov and D. Konnorsov, "Battleships Return to the Formation," No 4, pp 83-86
- Ye. Rakitin, "Reliance on Surprise," No 3, pp 81-85
- B. Rodionov, Ye. Nikitin and N. Novichkov, "'Radioelectronic Warfare' in the South Atlantic," No 1, pp 77-85
- B. Sapozhnikov, "The 'Rapid Deployment Force' as A Tool of Neocolonialism for the USA," No 12, pp 70-75
- "Reports and Facts," No 3, p 85; No 6, p 90; No 8, p 81
- M. Solov'yev, "The Islands of Micronesia and Their Strategic Importance," No 9, pp 83-86
- V. Strelkov, "Naval Forces in the American Strategy of 'Direct Confrontation'," No 5, pp 78-82
- S. Shapovalov, "Tactics of the Coastal Patrol Aviation of the NATO Naval Forces," No 8, pp 78-80
- B. Yashin, "The Straits of the Baltic Sea in NATO Plans," No 6, pp 82-90

X. CRITICISM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

- P. Azarov, "Unjustified Hopes," No 11, pp 92-93
- I. Bocharov, "We Are True to This Memory," No 7, pp 90-94
- N. Vilor, "When Evening Descends upon the Roadstead," No 2, pp 94-95
- N. V'yunenkov and K. Penzin, "Navies in World War II," No 11, pp 89-91
- P. Gus'kov, "Aphoristic Monuments," No 12, pp 87-88
- D. Il'yuk, "Friendship Elevated to a Law," No 4, pp 88-90
- N. Kaplunov and N. Korniyenko, "Heroism--a Standard of Conduct," No 10, pp 81-82
- "Competition," No 7, p 95
- A. Kutyayev, "Always Out Front....," No 9, pp 94-95
- V. Martynyuk, "To Help the Navy's Sonar Specialists," No 9, pp 92-94
- V. Mel'nikov, "Thirteen Lessons in Courage," No 8, pp 89-90
- V. Minakov, "Winged Sailors," No 8, pp 87-89
- S. Nosova, "Chronicle of Achievements and Victories," No 6, pp 91-93
- M. Ozimov, "At the Service of Imperialism and Reaction," No 3, pp 91-93

- V. Oppokov, "A Minute and an Entire Life," No 6, pp 94-95
 "In the Pages of the Journal," No 4, p 91; No 8, p 95
 "Letters to the Editors," No 1, p 95; No 7, p 94
 "Dedicated to Our Own Navy," No 10, p 95
 M. Samsonov, "Forever in the People's Memory," No 2, pp 91-93
 V. Selikhovkin and V. Panteleyev, "On Achievements in Radio Navigation by Satellite," No 10, pp 83-84
 Ye. Skvortsov, "On the Book 'Komandir korablya' [The Ship's Commander]," No 12, pp 86-87
 V. Solov'yev, "On Modern Methods for Substantiating Ship Designing Assignments," No 8, pp 90-92
 N. Solomin, "Talent--to the Fleet," No 12, pp 88-89
 I. Tarkhanov and V. Kirilenko, "An Essential Reference on Maritime Law," No 3, pp 94-95
 G. Tolstolutskiy, "Readiness '1'," No 2, pp 88-91
 B. Tyurin, "A Useful and Interesting Book," No 8, pp 92-93
 G. Chernobay, "A Story About the Naval Infantrymen," No 5, p 90
 "Readers--About the Journal," No 8, pp 93-94
 Ye. Shvarts, "The Stronghold of the Black Sea Fleet," No 5, pp 87-89
 M. Shiryamov, "To the Feat on the Volga...", No 1, pp 92-95
 B. Yashin, "In the Pentagon's Propaganda Element," No 10, pp 84-88

XI. LITERARY PAGES

- Vsevolod Azarov, "Always Remember!", No 5, pp 91-95
 V. Rudnyy, "A Bold Fortress," No 10, pp 89-94
 Nikolay Flerov, "To Our Own Fleet...", No 4, pp 92-95
 M. Chebotayev, "A Portrait of Old Times," No 94-95

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NAVAL FORCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS: MORSKOY SBORNIK NO 11, NOVEMBER 1983

Moscow MORSKOY SBORNIK in Russian No 11, Nov 83 (signed to press 10 Nov 83)
pp 1-2

[Text] Table of Contents	Page
Great October and the Present Day	3
BRING THE DECISIONS OF THE 26TH CPSU CONGRESS TO LIFE!	
An Ocean Examination (V. Gromak).....	8
The Hospital Ship "Yenisey" (N. Lukich).....	10
Fleet Chronicle.....	13
NAVAL STRATEGY AND QUESTIONS OF THEORY	
The Training of the Pacific Ocean Fleet's Air Force for Combat Operations and the Directorate Thereof (M. Terent'ev and V. Obukhov).....	16
Operations of the Black Sea Fleet's Air Force in the Liberation of the Crimea (V. Minakov).....	22
PARTY POLITICAL WORK AND MILITARY EDUCATION	
The Party's Concern for Discipline (M. Apollonov).....	26
Training a Komsomol Aktiv (Yu. Kozlov).....	28
The Museum of Baltic Renown (I. Demidov).....	30
COMBAT TRAINING	
Precise Planning--The Guarantee of Success (V. Alekseyev).....	31
The Course Director: Cares and Problems (I. Kosikov).....	38
Putting to Sea--Always a Trial (B. Kostylev).....	40
The Prevention of Strain in Pilots (F. Gladkikh).....	45
The Triumphs of a Brave Baltic Fleet Sailor (V. Mel'nikov).....	48
Improving the Training of Officers in International Law (G. Gorshkov).....	51

PAGES OF HISTORY

1943, November.....	56
"We Proceeded Under the Roar of the Cannonade...".....	58
For the Power of the Soviets! (M. Filimoshin).....	62
An Entire Life With the Fleet (Yu. Bodarevskiy).....	64

ARMAMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Ways of Conserving Energy Resources (V. Stefanovskiy).....	66
Reconstruction of Details by the Gas-Thermal Coating Method (G. Belov).....	68
The Struggle for Endurance Aboard the Destroyer "Besposhchadnyy" (A. Tikhonov).....	71
Infrasonics and Man (V. Novikov, A. Mastryukov and A. Arzumanov).....	74
The English Ship's Missile Attack Warning Station (N. Partala).....	75
The Use of All-Purpose Adhesive in Repair Work (N. Kostyunin).....	77

NATURAL PHENOMENA AND OCEAN LIFE

Seiches (V. Chuvashov).....	79
-----------------------------	----

ON FOREIGN FLEETS

The "Tomahawk" From Shore Against Ships (N. Kabalin).....	81
If a Good Wind Comes Up (B. Rodionov).....	83

CRITICISM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Navies in the Second World War (N. V'yuneneko and K. Penzin).....	89
Unwarranted Hopes (P. Azarov).....	92

LITERARY PAGES

Portrait of a Master Sergeant (M. Chebotayev).....	94
New Books.....	96

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NAVAL FORCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS: MORSKOY SBORNIK , NO 12, DECEMBER 1983

Moscow MORSKOY SBORNIK in Russian No 12, Dec 83 (signed to press 5 Dec 83)
pp 1-2

[Text] CONTENTS	Page
"Factors of Trouble-Free Sailing".....	3
26th CPSU CONGRESS DECISIONS--TO LIFE!	
"The Party Organization--Center of Ideological and Indoctrinational Work" - Ye. Zarodov.....	8
"Taking Counteraction is the Same as Attacking" - V. Myasnikov.....	11
"Navy Chronicle".....	14
NAVAL ART	
"Method, Technique or Procedure?" - A. Aristov.....	17
"On Assessing the Performance of Military Science Projects" - N. Letchford.....	20
PARTY-POLITICAL WORK AND MILITARY INDOCTRINATION	
"The Ship's Commander and the Uniting of the Crew" - V. Sogulyakin.....	22
"The Caliber of Indoctrination" - T. Kozlov.....	25
"Relying on the Petty Officers" - P. Syritsyn.....	30
COMBAT TRAINING	
"The Commander's Professional Competence" - N. Smirnov.....	33
"The Squadron Navigation Officer--Organizer of the Squadron's Navigation Service" - V. Aleksin.....	39
"For the Watch Officers' Training--a Creative Approach" - A. Bronevitskiy and V. Bulavchik.....	42
"'Stern-to-Stern' Mooring of Two Small Ships" - A. Sodalt'nikov.....	45
"Shoulder to Shoulder" - A. Pelikhov.....	47
"Physical Training of Airmen on a Long Cruise" - B. Yevstaf'yev and Ye. Naumenko.....	50

PAGES OF HISTORY

"1943, December".....	53
"Calendar of Memorable Naval Dates for January-June 1984".....	55
"Loyal to the Traditions of the Expedition for Special Purpose Underwater Works" - N. Chiker.....	56
"With the Romantics of 'Sunny Yards'" - Yu. Badakh.....	58
"Heading the Republic's Naval Forces" - M. Fedorov.....	60
"Outstanding Scientist and Ship Builder" - V. Tomashevskiy.....	61

ARMAMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

"Machinery Vibrations and Ship Noises" - G. Gromak and V. Yartsev.....	63
"Fiber Light Conductors" - N. Direktorov and A. Katanovich.....	67
"Universal Dock Gantry Support".....	69

IN THE FOREIGN NAVIES

"The 'Rapid Deployment Force' as a Tool of Neocolonialism for the USA" - B. Sapozhnikov.....	70
"The Results of an Antarctic Cruise" - V. Akimov.....	76
"In the Land of Carthage" - V. Sinegubov.....	80

CRITICISM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

"On the Book 'Komandir korablya' [The Ship's Commander]" - Ye. Skvortsov...	86
"Aphoristic Moments" - P. Gus'kov.....	87
"Talent--to the Fleet" - N. Solomin.....	88
Subject Plan for the Journal MORSKOY SBORNIK for 1984.....	90
Index of Articles Published in the Journal MORSKOY SBORNIK in 1983.....	93

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CSO: 1801/148

STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES

COLONEL GENERALS MELEKHIN, YASHIN, VISHENKOV ON ROCKET FORCES AND ARTILLERY DAY

Colonel General Melekhin

Kishinev SOVETSKAYA MOLDAVIYA in Russian 19 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by Col Gen A. D. Melekhin, deputy commander of Strategic Rocket Troops: "Guarding the Peaceful Labor"]

[Text] A national holiday is marked festively in our country annually on 19 November--Rocket Forces and Artillery Day. On this day the Soviet people glorify the unfading exploits of the frontline veterans of the Great Patriotic War and of the worthy successors to their combat glory--the men of the Soviet Armed Forces, and they render their due to the remarkable Soviet scientists and designers, engineers and technicians, and workers of the defense industry--the creators of the mighty missile and artillery armaments.

In continuing the combat traditions of their fathers, the missilemen and artillerymen are standing vigilant guard over the achievements of socialism and the peaceful labor of our people, and they are persistently implementing the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee concerning the strengthening of the socialist motherland's defensive capability.

The first revolutionary artillery subunits began their combat path as part of the Red Guard. With the birth of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, they poured into its ranks just as did the artillery units of the old army which went over to the side of the working people. V. I. Lenin attached great significance to the artillery in the accomplishment of the missions to smash internal counterrevolution and foreign intervention and organize the defense of the revolutionary achievements.

In the Civil War, the artillerymen displayed examples of steadfastness and courage in the struggle for the power of the Soviets in the defense of Tsaritsyn and Petrograd and the smashing of Kolchak, Denikin, and Wrangel'. For services to the Soviet Republic in the period of the Civil War, 18 artillery units were awarded the honorary revolutionary Red Banner.

During the years of the first five-year plans the Communist Party conducted tremendous work on improving the Soviet Armed Forces and equipping them with

contemporary combat equipment and weapons. In particular, 25 new artillery systems of various calibers were developed which surpassed similar systems in the inventories of foreign armies in their combat qualities. Our scientists developed powder rocket shells and a multiple self-propelled rocket launcher--the legendary "Katyusha."

Going through a serious test in battles with the Japanese Samurai at Lake Khasan and on the Khalkhin-Gol River, Soviet artillery displayed itself with special force during the years of the Great Patriotic War. Already in the first battles it inflicted tremendous losses on the enemy, especially on his armored forces.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of the rear-area workers our country's defense industry increased the production of armaments and equipment, including new models, from year to year. Completely automated cannons whose power exceeded five-fold the power of similar systems of the prewar period were created. Anti-tank artillery became qualitatively different. During the war years hundreds of thousands of artillery guns and mortars were sent to the front. This permitted a constant build-up of the artillery's firepower. In the most important operations of 1943-1945 the density of the artillery on breakthrough sectors reached 200-300 guns and mortars per kilometer of front and, in a number of cases, even more. More than 45,000 guns, mortars, and rocket launchers took part in the Berlin operation.

On 14 July 1941, a salvo of the battery of multiple rocket launchers under the command of Captain Flerov announced the birth of a qualitatively new type of artillery. The salvo fire of the rocket artillery ensured surprise and a high material and moral impact from the effect on the enemy. In no army of the world did it receive such broad development as in our's. Its quantity grew continuously during the war and by 1945 the proportion of rocket artillery reached 13-14 percent in the artillery of the reserve of the High Command.

I, a direct participant in the combat operations during the long four war years, had the occasion to be a witness to the way that remarkable moral-combat qualities of the Soviet artillerymen were disclosed in all completeness--devotion to the motherland, heroism, and the striving to accomplish the combat mission under any conditions and situation. During the war years, 1,600,000 soldiers, sergeants, officers, and generals of artillery large units, units, and subunits were awarded orders and medals and more than 1,800 were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. More than 500 artillery units and large units were awarded the title of Guards.

The services of our artillery in the Great Patriotic War were evaluated highly by the Soviet people: by a decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in November 1944 the holiday--Artillery Day (from 1964--Rocket Forces and Artillery Day)--was established.

After World War II, under the conditions of supercharging of the international situation by the ruling circles of the United States the problems of the further improvement of our Armed Forces arose with all acuteness. Under the difficult conditions of the first postwar years the Communist Party and the Soviet government were forced to rebuild the defense industry in the shortest time and to initiate broadly scientific research work in the field of rocket building and the production of nuclear ammunition.

The year 1957 became an important stage in the development of Soviet rocket building when our intercontinental multistage ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear weapon to any point on Earth successfully underwent tests. An end was put to the military invulnerability of the United States--the main bulwark of imperialism.

In 1959, the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government adopted the decision for the creation of a new service of the Soviet Armed Forces--the Strategic Rocket Troops. They have now attained a qualitatively new level of development. They are now armed with improved missile complexes having high technical specifications and operational characteristics. Our missiles can deliver nuclear warheads of colossal power to the target rapidly and reliably and launch strikes which cannot be averted against the aggressor wherever he may be.

The missile troops are continuously on combat duty and in constant combat readiness. Such readiness is forced when faced by the anti-Soviet military preparations of the U.S. militarists and their accomplices.

In the Ground Forces the tactical and operational-tactical rocket weapons capable of destroying targets at a distance of from dozens to hundreds of kilometers comprise the main firepower. Nor has tube artillery lost its significance. It is cannon, howitzer, tank-destroyer, and rocket artillery which is powerful, remarkable in its quality, and completely motorized.

In struggling to preserve the peace, in the future, too, the Communist Party and the Soviet government will do everything necessary to ensure the security of the USSR and its friends and allies and to raise the combat power of the Soviet Armed Forces--the mighty factor in restraining the aggressive aspirations of imperialist reaction.

Approving heartily and supporting completely the Leninist foreign and domestic policy of our party the missilemen and artillerymen, just as all the men of the Soviet Armed Forces, are making a worthy contribution to raising combat readiness with their selfless soldierly labor.

Among the missile officers more than 90 percent are specialists with an increased proficiency rating and genuine masters of military affairs. Many units and subunits rightly bear the honorable title of excellent. The personnel of the unit commanded by officer A. Pavlov are marching in the vanguard of the socialist competition among the missile troops which is being conducted under the slogan, "Raise vigilance, reliably ensure the motherland's security!" Here 60 percent of the subunits are excellent.

The personnel of many artillery and rocket units and subunits of the Ground Forces demonstrated increased combat training in the summer of 1983 on exercises in the Baltic region and in Western Belorussia which were conducted under the direction of the Soviet Minister of Defense, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov. Missions were accomplished skillfully and with great effectiveness in the units where officers I. Pavlyuk, M. Borzenkov, and A. Korbachkov serve.

High and stable results in combat training are also demonstrated by personnel of the units where officers S. Karachev, V. Prozorov, Yu. Smirnov, and A. Losev serve.

Recently, considering the extremely difficult military-political situation in the world which is being whipped up by the ruling circles of the United States, the missilemen and artillerymen, just as all the men of the Soviet Armed Forces, are vigilantly following the intrigues of the imperialists and laboring persistently on raising the troops' combat readiness.

Preparatory work for the deployment of operational-tactical missile complexes on the territory of the GDR and CSSR has begun to increase the defensive capability of the socialist countries as a responsive measure in case of the emplacement of American land-based long-range Pershing-2 ballistic missiles and cruise missiles in a number of West European NATO member countries.

Here it is appropriate to recall the words from the Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yu. V. Andropov: "It should be time for everyone to whom this pertains to understand that we are able to ensure the security of our country and the security of our friends and allies under any conditions. The Soviet people can be confident that the defensive capability of our country is at such a level that we would not advise anyone to organize a test of strength."

The missilemen and artillerymen have a deep realization of the entire completeness of their responsibility for ensuring peace and for the reliable defense of our motherland, and they are performing their military duty with honor, demonstrating lofty moral-political and combat qualities and monolithic solidarity around the Central Committee of our Communist Party. In a single combat formation with the men of the Soviet Armed Forces and the armies of the Warsaw Pact's fraternal countries, they are standing vigilant guard over the creative labor of the Soviet people and the achievements of peace and socialism.

Colonel General Yashin

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Nov 83 p 1

[Interview with Col Gen Yu. A. Yashin, first deputy commander of Strategic Rocket Troops, by V. Liselev, correspondent for KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA; date and place not given]

[Text] [Liselev] A red strip of carpet, softly muffling the steps, leads from the tall folding door to the desk. There is nothing unnecessary on it: an inkstand, several bulging portfolios with documents, a small glass with highly sharpened pencils of various colors, and a pile of clean paper. But this entire simple set-up is arranged so properly--each thing in its place-- that it is clear at first glance: the person trained himself in self-discipline and a lofty working style. Actually, he must do very much work. The door which is covered with a blind leads from the office to a small room. Sometimes there are not enough hours in the day to travel home, and then Colonel General Yashin, winner of the Soviet State Prize and doctor of technical sciences, remains here.

The things are considered dumb to no purpose. They can tell much about their master. I examine the office attentively. On the wall--a map of the Soviet Union. Directly beneath it--a long table for meetings, and next to it--a most ordinary school blackboard with chalk and eraser. Frequent conferences with scientists and representatives of industry take place here. In a cabinet, behind the windows, many books. If anything tells directly about the profession of Yuriy Alekseyevich, it is the two models of strategic missiles which are made with great accuracy, in detail.

[Yashin] Many of my contemporaries were attracted by the romance of military roads. We still lived with the recent heroic past of the Civil War, Khasan and Khalkhin-Gol, and the battles of the international brigades in Spain. But the Great Patriotic War made a special impression on the fate of my generation.

The exploit of the Soviet people and the army and the deep respect and love for the serviceman who travelled the difficult roads of the war and smashed fascism left no doubts that we should also undergo military service and do our duty for the defense of the motherland. And my childhood dream to be an officer --a pilot or artilleryman--was strengthened. Entering a special artillery school, as they said at that time I became a "specialist." I decided to continue the work of my father: a worker by birth, he was the commissar of an artillery battalion, and later of a regiment.

Twenty years of age and having completed the 2d Leningrad Artillery School, I began my service in a Guards artillery unit. It was organized in 1942 in battles at Stalingrad from regiments of the High Command's reserve. Always up ahead, where it was more difficult--this is the main privilege of the Guard. The Kursk Bulge, the Dnepr, the Sandomir bridgehead on the Visla, Prague, Berlin. By the end of the Great Patriotic War five orders flashed on the division standard. It is now one of the famous units in the Rocket Troops.

[Liselev] On the morning of 6 August 1945 the American bomber "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Several days later a horrible fate awaited Nagasaki. The smoke of World War II had not dispersed when the planet was covered by the shadow of the next one.

American scientists came to the conclusion that the USSR could create an atomic bomb in no sooner than 10 years. The possibility of a monopoly began to turn the heads of some people. However, in only two years after the detonation above Japan--in 1947--the Soviet Union announced that the secret of the atomic bomb does not exist.

On 4 October 1957 TASS announced the launching of the first artificial Earth satellite in the world. This event was not only the beginning of a new era in the history of mankind--the space age. It signified that a carrier rocket had been created in the Soviet Union which is capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to any point on Earth in a short time. The American nuclear monopoly lasted for only several years, and the dream of world domination collapsed.

[Yashin] The Strategic Rocket Troops are a component part of the Soviet Union's strategic nuclear forces. They are the youngest service of the Armed Forces. They will mark their 25th anniversary next year.

The birth of the Rocket Troops was a difficult and complex matter.

One of the remote garrisons of 1950 is recalled. Steppe as far as the eye could see from edge to edge, winds and the crunching of sand on the teeth. Housing--a tent, the Lenin room--a tent, training classrooms--trenches in the steppe, mess hall--an awning above the head. But all the domestic disorder seemed to be a trifle in comparison with the unusual importance of the assigned matter--to create a ballistic missile as soon as possible and place it in the inventory. These were years of unusual enthusiasm and animation. We worked day and night. Scientist and designer, worker and engineer, general and soldier--they all accomplished one great common deed.

We officers studied the new, most complex equipment and the functional diagrams of the systems of units and assemblies down to the finest details until late in the evening.

Then we worked out each operation and each of its elements on launchers with the soldiers and sergeants.

The Rocket Troops were formed without the thundering of a band and ballyhoo of a parade. The best representatives, subunits, and units from the other services of the Armed Forces were sent here. Among those who joined the Rocket Troops were many frontline veterans. They brought glorious combat traditions to our collectives. The names of many war heroes are inscribed forever on the rosters of the missile subunits.

In recent years, the attempt is being made to interpret artistically how the Rocket Troops were created, improved, and are serving. But this subject still awaits its embodiment in literature as well as on the motion picture screen. We believe that writers, artists, and composers are already under an obligation to the Rocket Troops.

[Liselev] Comrade general, I performed my active service in the Navy. We had various rockets on the ships. I know that the antiaircraftmen and pilots have them. But why is the title of the "shield and sword on the fatherland" most applicable precisely to the strategic missiles?

[Yashin] Contemporary missiles are now represented in all the services of our Armed Forces and comprise one of the most important components of their combat power. But there are weapons for a special purpose to which an exceptionally important role is allotted in the system for ensuring the country's defensive capability--strategic missiles. It is the shield of peace on Earth and the punitive sword of retribution for those who attempt to encroach on the security of the Soviet Union and our friends and allies.

Created for the defense of the socialist fatherland, our troops are constantly in high combat readiness. All missile units are always ready to launch an irresistible responsive strike at any time of the year, day and night, and in any weather.

At one time U.S. President Truman raised the nuclear cudgel. Everyone knows how much grief it brought. Now Mr. Reagan is bent on doing it. From what

direction isn't he trying to approach the strategic balance which has been created in the world in order to tip the scales in favor of the United States? Without disdaining anything: neither the juggling with public opinion, nor political provocations, nor even slander. Speaking hypocritically from the rostrum of the 38th session of the UN General Assembly, the chief of the White House in essence confirmed the refusal of the United States to further the working out of mutually acceptable agreements with the USSR based on the principle of equality and equal security of the parties. As was noted in the Declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Yu. V. Andropov: "Now they are occupied with something else in the American capital: they are placing the production of newer and newer systems on the production line...."

Literally days remain to the emplacement of the Pershing-2's in the FRG, and cruise missiles have already been delivered to Britain on 14 November to the Greenham Common base. They will be ready for launching against the territory of the USSR by the end of this year. They need only a few minutes to cover a distance of up to 2,500 kilometers and destroy the target with great accuracy.

Can we really wait calmly until these missiles fly to our cities, plants, electric power plants, and bridges? We are doing everything necessary to preserve the military-strategic balance in the world. For only the fear of retribution can be an obstacle to such a policy for the high-handed adventurists.

Ronald Reagan is trying to deceive public opinion with the possibility of the conduct of local nuclear wars. He says that explosions will sound in Europe, but the American population will sit snugly and peacefully and it has nothing to fear. But there cannot be a local nuclear conflict. American missiles, from the territory of whatever country they may be launched, will lead the world to catastrophe.

If the inevitable happens, the population of Europe may also suffer to a great degree. But a guaranteed irresistible strike will also be launched against the territory of the United States. And neither Reagan nor those with him should entertain any illusions.

We have more than enough good will. But we are compelled to adopt responsive measures to ensure security. By agreement with the governments of the GDR and CSSR preparatory work has already been begun on their territories for the deployment of operational-tactical missile complexes. As the Soviet Defense Minister, Marshal of the Soviet Union D. F. Ustinov, said at the common day for political work of the central political apparatus of the Soviet Defense Ministry which took place recently: "We will be compelled to adopt other effective measures, too, including those which will demonstrate graphically the illusive-ness of the United States' calculations on geographic isolation and the invulnerability of its own territory."

And how do the missilemen themselves react to the aggravation of international tension? With increased combat readiness! They are standing combat watch calmly and confidently at the control panels of the strategic missiles. The best subunits and units are headed by Comrades S. Karachev, V. Chernyshov, A. Borzenkov, I. Molozhayev, and others.

The sons and grandsons of the frontline heroes are continuing the glorious traditions of their fathers with honor. The absolute majority of training missile launches this year were conducted only with a grade of excellent. The Komsomol soldiers have many good deeds to their credit. All participants in the All-Union Lenin Examination: "Realize the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress!", became rated specialists. The missile unit which was the initiator of competition among the troops won the title of excellent for the tenth time. They have tremendous labor behind them.

It is honorable and responsible to defend the peace and serve under banners covered with the glory of their fathers. This imposes a high responsibility on the sons.

Colonel General Vishenkov

Moscow SOVETSKIY VOIN in Russian No 21, Nov 83 pp 4-5

[Article by Col Gen V. Vishenkov, chief of main staff, Strategic Rocket Troops, Hero of the Soviet Union: "The Motherland's Reliable Shield"]

[Text] This year, the traditional holiday of the missilemen and artillerymen is being marked in an atmosphere of the high political and labor activity of the Soviet people and the men of the Armed Forces and of the broadly initiated socialist competition for the successful realization of the historic decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

The Soviet artillery is the same age as our Armed Forces. It withstood its first test with honor in the years of the struggle with the combined forces of the interventionists and internal counterrevolution. The artillerymen of the Red Army fought heroically on all fronts and made a tangible contribution to the attainment of victory over the enemies of the young country of Soviets.

During the years of peaceful construction, the important achievements in the field of science and heavy industry became the basis for strengthening our country's defensive might and reequipping the Armed Forces. Outstanding artillery designers V. T. Grabin, F. F. Petrov, I. I. Ivanov, B. I. Shavyrin, and others developed new models of guns and howitzers, mortars, and antitank and antiaircraft guns of various calibers.

In accomplishing the task of raising the artillery's combat properties, at the same time Soviet military-theoretical thought correctly pointed to the possibility of creating rocket weapons. The party and the Soviet government attached important significance to this work.

As a result, at the beginning of the 1930's scientific directions were organized for the creation of liquid- and solid-fuel rockets.

By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War the BM-13 self-propelled rocket launcher and powder rockets for it had been developed and accepted in the inventory. Rocket weapons received their test in the very first days of the war. At

1515 hours on 14 July 1941 a battery under the command of Captain I. A. Flerov fired the first salvo against the German-fascist aggressors in the area of Orsha. The powerful fire strike announced the birth of a new, formidable weapon.

In the course of the war Soviet artillery multiplied its glorious combat traditions. It was superior to the enemy's artillery in firepower and organizational structure.

The Communist Party, Soviet government, and our people evaluated highly the services of the artillerymen in the Great Patriotic War. For courage, valor, and the skillful mastery of formidable weapons more than 500 of the most distinguished artillery units and large units were awarded the lofty title of Guards, 1,855 soldiers, sergeants, officers, and generals who were artillerymen became Heroes of the Soviet Union, while two of them--V. S. Petrov and A. P. Shilin--were awarded this title twice.

The successes of our troops on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War were ensured by the titanic work and truly heroic efforts of the rear area workers who supplied the front with equipment, weapons, and ammunition continuously, in increasing quantity. This permitted using a tremendous quantity of artillery in big battles: in December 1941 at Moscow--about 8,000 guns and mortars, in 1942 at Stalingrad--14,200, and in 1945 in the Berlin operation--about 42,000.

The victory of the Soviet Union over fascist Germany and its satellites is a stern warning to those nurture plans for a new world war. The experience of history confirmed graphically that the process of mankind's movement toward socialism and communism cannot be stopped by any means, including military.

But the lessons of history did not do the imperialists any good. By the atomic bombing of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki already in 1945, American imperialism openly tried to proclaim the right to dictate its will to the world.

Under the conditions of nuclear blackmail, the problems of the further development of the Soviet Armed Forces arose with all urgency. With consideration of the last war's experience, the profound scientific analysis of the situation which had developed, and the trend in the development of military affairs and the country's economic possibilities the Communist Party indicated the basic directions of military organizational development.

Among these directions which determine the development of the Soviet Armed Forces, the creation of nuclear weapons and the means for their delivery was one of the leading directions. This was a forced measure undertaken by the USSR in response to the threat of nuclear bombardments of the socialist countries.

Important scientific, designer, and engineer personnel were drawn to the work on accomplishing this task. Among them were the outstanding scientists S. P. Korolev, I. V. Kurchatov, M. V. Keldysh, M. K. Yangel', and others. Already in 1947 our government declared that the secret of the atomic bomb does not exist for the Soviet Union. The United States' monopoly in nuclear weapons was eliminated by the middle of the 1950's, and missiles of various classes and types with high specifications were developed and accepted in the inventory in our country.

An intercontinental missile with a motor having a power of several million horsepower was created in 1957.

The world socialist system received its own missile shield. The creation of the intercontinental missile marked the end of the inaccessibility and invulnerability of the aggressor, at whatever point on the Earth he may be.

The appearance of nuclear missiles led to revolutionary changes in military affairs. Views on the conduct of war as a whole were reviewed. The most striking example of the expression of qualitative changes in military affairs was the creation of the Strategic Rocket Troops on the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government.

Thanks to the daily concern of the Communist Party and the Soviet people the missile troops grew, matured, and became the reliable shield for the security of our motherland and of all the countries of the socialist commonwealth and the basic means for restraining the aggressor and preserving peace.

The missile troops attained a qualitatively new level of development in a short historical period. They now have automated missile complexes which differ in power and purpose and which possess a high degree of readiness for combat employment.

The Strategic Rocket Troops are troops in constant combat readiness. Such readiness is a forced but necessary measure to restrain the aggressive aspirations of imperialism and its accomplices.

The strength and might of the missile troops, just as of all our Armed Forces, is in people. The missilemen, selflessly devoted to the party and the people, possess firm ideological tempering and lofty moral-political and combat qualities and are skillfully mastering combat equipment and weapons.

In the Strategic Rocket Troops almost 100 percent of the personnel are communists and Komsomols. Youths arrive for conscript service in the missile units who have a high level of education and have undergone good primary military training. This helps them to become genuine specialists in military affairs in a short time.

The missile units and subunits are headed by experienced commanders, political officers, and technical-engineering personnel who are boundlessly devoted to the party and the people. The overwhelming majority of the missile officers have a higher education and are high-class specialists and genuine masters of military affairs.

The entire system of training and indoctrination in the missile troops is imbued with the concern of commanders, political officers, staffs, and party and Komsomol organizations for the development, in the men, of lofty political consciousness and activity, initiative, and responsibility for the assigned matter.

The missilemen are greeting their traditional holiday with the successful conclusion of the training year and with new achievements in combat improvement and the accomplishment of socialist obligations which have been assumed.

The men demonstrated a high level of combat training, increased military skill, and remarkable combat qualities on exercises and in the course of training missile launches.

The absolute majority of them were accomplished with a grade of "excellent."

The communists and Komsomols were examples in the accomplishment of tasks for the further raising of combat readiness and the level of military skill and in the accomplishment of socialist obligations. They step forth as the pioneers in everything new and advanced and they multiply the mobilizing force of competition.

In peacetime, many missile troop units have been awarded battle orders, challenge banners, and the Pennant of the Soviet Minister of Defense for excellent indices in combat and political training.

The personnel of the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. Pavlov is the initiator of socialist competition in the missile troops. The men are firmly keeping the word which they have given. Here all lessons, drills, and exercises are imbued with the spirit of healthy rivalry. In the unit, competitions are constantly conducted for the best subunit in drill training, for the best duty shift, and for the best specialist. The results of the competition are graphically displayed in the wall press and are summed up at conferences. As a result, 60 percent of the subunits are excellent and more than half the men are masters of military affairs.

For courage and steadfastness displayed when performing military duty, missilemen Privates Dmitriy Bushuyev and Valeriy Kostenko, Private First Class Aleksandr Kistanov, Junior Sergeant Viktor Babichev, Lieutenants Ivan Gavrilov and Vladimir Basov, and Senior Lieutenant Yuriy Dubrovin have been awarded orders and medals.

In the course of exercises which have taken place a feeling of high personal responsibility was demonstrated by Junior Sergeant Ye. P'yankov and his subordinates. They exceeded the standards, and the subunit successfully accomplished a training-combat mission. In Ye. P'yankov's section all the men are specialists with a high proficiency rating and experts of combat and political training. The commander himself is a high-class specialist and masters five allied specialties.

Driver Private S. Vygovko was recently rewarded with a short leave. He mastered four allied specialties in a year of service. On one of the marches he exceeded the established standards by 20 percent and thereby contributed to the successful accomplishment of the mission.

Private First Class P. Kolbin is permitted to work independently in four allied specialties and has been permitted to do officer work. On the concluding check, in accomplishing a training-combat mission he performed the duties of section chief. He functioned competently and skillfully. Under his leadership the section received an excellent grade.

For more than 20 years, the Strategic Rocket Troops have been on the alert and in constant combat readiness in accordance with the party's will in guarding the borders of our state. Shift replaces shift at the consoles of the formidable missiles. A portion of the personnel are replaced in the missile crews twice a year but the level of combat training is not lowered.

Today's generation of servicemen are learning steadfastness, fearlessness, and combat skill from the veteran missilemen, artillerymen, and rocket launchermen who brought fame to the battle standards of their units and subunits during the war years.

The missilemen and artillerymen, just as all the men of the Soviet Armed Forces, are always ready to accomplish with honor their patriotic and international duty to defend the sacred borders of our motherland and to rebuff any aggressor who dares to disrupt the peaceful labor of the Soviet people--the builders of communism.

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6367

CSO: 1801/139

SPECIAL TROOPS

TABLE OF CONTENTS: TYL I SNABZHENIYE SOVETSKIKH VOORUZHENNYKH SIL

Moscow TYL I SNABZHENIYE SOVETSKIKH VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 11, Nov 83
(signed to press 10 Nov 83) p 2

[Text] Table of Contents

	Page
The New Academic Year: The Tasks of the Rear Services (S. Kurkotkin).....	3
BRING THE DECISIONS OF THE 26TH CPSU CONGRESS TO LIFE!	
Enhancing the Effectiveness of Educational Work (B. Utkin).....	9
COMBAT, POLITICAL AND SPECIAL TRAINING	
The Dependability of the Directorate of the Rear Services in Battle (N. Makarov).....	15
FROM REPORTS AND ELECTIONS IN PARTY ORGANIZATIONS	
In the Interests of Enhancing Combat Training	18
The Peculiarities of Training a Detached Logistical Support Battalion (G. El'chishchev).....	20
FOR THOSE PURSUING STUDIES	
Classroom and Field (V. Barkov).....	23
Behind Every Letter There's a Person (Ye. Zarodov).....	27
COMBAT READINESS IS CONSTANT	
The Day Before the March (A. Oleynik).....	30
IT WAS DURING THE WAR	
Railroad Ferrying (I. Korshunov).....	33
PEOPLE AND THEIR AFFAIRS	
A Military Doctor (P. Altunin).....	35

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOOD PROGRAM

Zealous People (M. Trushchenkov).....	39
Man's Faithful Helpmate (P. Grishchenko and V. Lupol).....	40

TO ECONOMIZE MEANS TO AUGMENT

The Brigade of the Thrifty and Its Followers (A. Pimenov).....	42
A Covering Detachment for Losses of Precious Metals (G. Yakushev).....	43

LOGISTICAL AND MEDICAL SUPPLY, FINANCE, THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE TROOPS

Food Services in the Field (V. Metlov).....	45
Studying Without Ceasing (I. Uvarov).....	50
The Chief of the Messhall (Yu. Romanov).....	53
Satisfying the Demands of Purchasers More Completely (D. Gongadze).....	56
A Day of Life Aboard a Ship (L. Yakutin).....	60

FOR YOU COOKS

Tasty, Nourishing, and Calorific.....	62
---------------------------------------	----

LINES OF COMMUNICATION, TRANSPORT, SUPPLY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Troop Transportation in the Winter (I. Plishko).....	63
With the Help of Mathematical Methods (V. Shachnev and A. Titov).....	66
A Crack in the Landing Strip (I. Sinyayev).....	70

IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY OF THE USSR

The Gifts of the "Blue Virgin Soil" (A. Vlasov).....	72
--	----

LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL STAFF

...And the Potato Cleaner Began To Work (O. Minin); Skilled Training for Supernumerary Specialists (G. Shchelchkov); Let's Wait for Confirmation (V. Aleksandrov); In Order Not To Carry Unnecessary Belongings (V. Kruzhkov); A Misfortune in Packing (A. Mokshin); Is It Necessary To Invent the Bicycle? (N. Yudin).....	75
Chronicle.....	78
The Artist's Smile.....	79
The Journal Has Appeared. That's Done!.....	80

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12462

CSO: 1801/127

MILITARY EDUCATION FACILITIES

INFORMATION ON ADMISSION TO SUVOROV MILITARY SCHOOL

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Vice-Sergeant V. Rusanov: "Suvorovites"]

[Text] "Dear 'Azimuth'! Next year I finish 8th Grade. I dream about going to a Suvorov military school. Please discuss how the Suvorov students live and what they study." (A. Kirov, Kuybyshev.)

Vice-Sergeant Vladimir Rusanov of the Kalinin Suvorov Military School answers the request of our young reader.

While preparing for the October military parade in Moscow, we met a group of past graduates of Suvorov military schools. History itself came to life in their recollections. Col Gen K. Kochetov and lieutenant generals A. Fomin, I. Chelombeyev, Ye. Kuznetsov, A. Fedorov and N. Moiseyev wore the scarlet shoulder-boards of Suvorovites. USSR cosmonauts Col V. Dzhanibekov, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union and Col Engr Yu. Glazkov, Hero of the Soviet Union, were Suvorovites. Suvorov alumni Col V. Kolesnik and Maj S. Kozlov became heroes of the Soviet Union.

In 1943, when our Kalinin Suvorov school was created along with others, it was housed in the best building of those still standing in the city. The first Suvorovites were the sons of officers who had perished at the front. Some of the boys themselves experienced the ordeals of the front. Eleven of the first graduates of our school were awarded orders and medals during the war years.

The building allotted to the school way back in 1943 is standing today. Nearby a five-story academic and residential complex has been built. The new club and dining hall are a joy to behold. On the banks of the Volga a spacious parade ground and an excellent sports complex have been built.

It is symbolic that the city residents erected the obelisk of victory in front of our school. We are participants in all the ceremonies carried out on this square. Here the ritual initiation of new students as Suvorovites is accomplished. Here we say goodbye to the school banner in order to stand under the banner of a higher military educational institution.

We are proud that the graduates of the Kalinin Suvorov Military School become thoroughly prepared, courageous officers. The deep knowledge obtained at the

Suvorov School helps them to become well-qualified commanders. Remarkable teachers work here with us. We study in exceptionally well-equipped classrooms and study areas. The lessons conducted by RSFSR Honored Teachers Z. P. Belov and D. M. Solov'yev, and Excellent Teachers of the USSR and RSFSR M. Ye. Babushkin, N. M. Kolyasniskaya, V. A. Kravtsova and V. S. Sazonova are remembered our entire lives. Maj Gen K. M. Chirkov, chief of the school; Col P. M. Plutalovskiy, chief of the Political Department; and COL A. S. Morozov, chief of the Academic Department are like fathers to us. Suvorovites borrow a great deal from their company commanders. A heated discussion flares up on some question, opinions are exchanged, and we immediately hurry to our commander, LTC A. M. Kotikov. He is the higher authority for us. Anatoliy Mikhaylovich both commands a company and teaches military disciplines. Along with general educational subjects, Suvorovites study general military regulations, the theory and rules of firing, basics of tactics, military engineering and reconnaissance, and military topography. We study vehicles and work on communications. In the summer we camp out, live in tents, conduct training attacks and perform firing exercises.

We also study in depth customary secondary school subjects, such as foreign languages. Special attention is devoted to developing oral speaking skills. Before graduation many pass exams as military translators.

The school has outstanding opportunities for sports. There are several winter sports gymnasiums. Military combination sports competitions, light athletics, boxing, gymnastics and sports games are especially popular. Everyone in our company has completed the norms of the GTO [Prepared for Labor and Defense of the USSR] complex. Half are in the top category in sports. We begin each day with physical exercises.

I would also like to talk about how Suvorovites themselves organize their everyday lives. During the holidays I went to my home town of Michurinsk and stopped by to see a school friend. I invited him to go to a movie. In answer he said to wait a minute, his mama was ironing his pants. I could barely keep from laughing at a tenth grader who cannot look after himself. We not only maintain our clothing in ideal condition, but pick up our area, the barracks and academic premises, and repair our furniture and books. In a Suvorov school one does not say: "I can't, I don't know how." One must learn.

We love amateur artistic performances. Each company has a choir and vocal-instrumental ensembles. Our evenings are interesting, especially those dedicated to A. V. Suvorov, the famous Soviet military leader.

Less than a year remains until graduation. We discuss our future plans in large groups and small. Most often I share my thoughts with Vitaliy Denisov, Gennadiy Golikov and Dmitriy Vorob'yev. Vitaliy's father is an officer; both of his grandfathers were in the Great Patriotic War. He is, so to speak, a representative of a dynasty of officers. Dmitriy's father is a driver. Mine is a metal worker. Gennadiy has no parents. The common dream of becoming officers, defenders of our beloved Homeland, has linked us.

OUR INFORMATION

Admittance to the Suworov military schools takes place from 1-15 August, and to the Nakhimov Naval Schools from 15-30 July. The Kiev Suworov School accepts boys who have studied English, German or Spanish in school; the Kalinin, Minsk, Moscow, Sverdlovsk and Ussuriysk schools, English or German; and the Kazan and Leningrad schools, English or French. The Nakhimov Naval School (in Leningrad) accepts those who have studied English. One can enter only the Suworov Military School nearest his place of residence, having registered through the military commissariat during 1-25 June.

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27 FEB. 1984

